South Presbyterian Church & Campus

Community Vision Plan

November 2013

RRCDC
ROCHESTER REGIONAL
COMMUNITY DESIGN CENTER

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South Presbyterian Church & Campus

Community Vision Plan

November 2013

Rochester, New York

Produced by the Rochester Regional Community Design Center

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Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the hundreds of volunteer hours given by members of the church, the neighborhood, and area businesses to bring this Community Visioning Plan to fruition. The goal of the partnership between the South Presbyterian Church and the Rochester Regional Community Design Center was to sharpen the vision of possibilities for future use of the church campus. In light of the church's 165 year presence in the neighborhood and its dwindling membership, we are cognizant of the fact that our actions will have a major impact on the neighborhood.

The Community Visioning Plan for South Presbyterian Church & Campus empowered the larger community to see itself in the future vision for our property at our location as one of the anchors of the new multi-million dollar development known as "College Town," slated for completion in the fall of 2014.

South Church is committed to continuing its long-standing relationship with neighbors and businesses. With the combined input of business owners, residents, church members, representatives from both the Presbytery of Genesee Valley and the Presbyterian Foundation of the General Assembly of the PC(USA), the City of Rochester, as well as area architects and designers, the Church now moves forward to meet the needs of everyone ... not just its own members.

We honor the expertise of the Rochester Regional Community Design Center staff and volunteers as it proved invaluable in crystallizing the wants, desires and vision of those involved.

In particular, we wish to thank the members of the Charrette Steering Committee: José Fernandez (***University of Rochester***), Matt McCarthy and Nancy Johns-Price (***City of Rochester***), Richard Rowe (***Rowe Photo, Video & Audio for Mt. Hope Business Association***), Joni Monroe (***RRCDC***) and from South Presbyterian Church: Linda Fraser, Mary Lee Miller, and Stena & Gordon Rickner. Meetings on Friday mornings at 7:30 a.m. did not dampen their humor, humility, and insight.

Countless volunteers made the Charrette Day special. Of particular note are those who donated food and drink and those RRCDC volunteers who facilitated each of the small design groups. The Design Team at RRCDC showed remarkable sensitivity and creativity in synthesizing the input from that day into this cohesive document, and we thank South's Ann Finger for her editorial and proof reading gifts.

We are also grateful to Sebastian Baliva, Joni Monroe and Roger Brown from RRCDC for their patience, counsel and encouragement. It was their wisdom that helped focus the Steering Committee and later, the Session of South Presbyterian, on our vision of transformation that embodies our guiding principles.

With thanksgiving and a grateful heart,

(The Reverend) Deborah Fae Swift
Pastor, South Presbyterian Church

To God be the Glory

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Executive Summary

In collaboration with South Presbyterian Church (SPC), the Rochester Regional Community Design Center (RRCDC) has prepared this community-based Vision Plan for the South Presbyterian Church and campus. The church and its property are bounded by Fort Hill Terrace, Rosemount Street, and E. Henrietta Road on the north, south, and west respectively. On the east the property is bordered by the Upper Mt. Hope neighborhood.

The Vision Plan incorporates ideas and goals suggested at the community Charrette Workshop held on May 18, 2013 at the South Presbyterian Church. The participants, guided by design professionals, produced both written and visual concepts for the corridor. A summarization of these suggestions can be found in the Charrette Workshop Results section of this report. The resulting plans integrate these ideas as well as principles of good design and planning and explores potential development scenarios that will contribute to a healthy, open, and economically viable center of the spiritual and secular community.

The South Presbyterian Church and Campus Vision Plan document contains plans, maps, drawings and other images to illustrate the design and development recommendations for the site. The ideas generated at the community design charrette workshop were used to develop guiding principles for the final plan. The guiding principles are as follows:

1. Retain the present location as the platform for an ongoing Urban Ministry;

2. Create a "hybrid identity" that spiritually nurtures both members and non-members;

3. Seek design that complements the slogan, "Transform Your Spirit; Transform Our World" and unifies new development;

4. Maintain a low carbon footprint through the creative and effective use of green technology ;

5. Develop parking strategies for better use of space, aesthetic consideration, and accessibility;

6. Establish a five year plan that you envision can be attained, God willing.

The guiding principles were instrumental in developing the plans and recommendations contained in this Vision Plan. There are several proposed improvements based on these principles and they will serve as a guide for the growth and future development of South Presbyterian Church.

Introduction

On Saturday May 18, 2013 the South Presbyterian (SPC) Steering Committee hosted the ***South Presbyterian Church and Campus Charrette Workshop*** to engage the congregation, local residents, and stakeholders to share and gather ideas that might serve as a basis for a plan for the future of the Church. The event attracted over 60 participants and 16 design professionals who served as facilitators. The charrette materials, provided on the following pages, will be analyzed, synthesized and incorporated into a Vision Plan for the Church and its campus that will be produced by the RRCDC with direction from the Session of South Presbyterian Church.

The South Presbyterian Church is located at 4 E. Henrietta Road. The property is bounded by Rosemount Street on the south and Fort Hill Terrace on the north. The Charrette Workshop focused on the church buildings and its property as well as on its relationship with the surrounding neighborhood and the new developments on Mt. Hope Avenue, including Collegetown. This area features a density of commercial activity including the Strong Memorial Hospital and the University of Rochester.

The South Presbyterian Church is an open and welcoming organization that has deep roots in the neighborhood, however, rising maintenance costs and a smaller congregation have created challenges in recent years. With the redevelopment of Mt. Hope Avenue and the construction of Collegetown, a sizable University of Rochester development, SPC has taken this opportunity to rethink its direction and look towards how it will serve the community in the future.

This report chronicles the processes before, during and after the Charrette Workshop and provides a record of the community ideas that were generated. The RRCDC, in conjunction with SPC Steering Committee, used the ideas to create a vision for the future of the South Presbyterian Church. Each section of the report explores potential scenarios, the process required to create and implement this vision, and a cohesive plan that was derived from that process. This Vision Plan is intended to be a resource for SPC, the congregation, the residents, and other individuals and organizations involved with the future development or improvement of this and surrounding properties. It sets the tone for the future of the church, how it might look and function, and the quality of character of potential reconfiguration and development. Without a recorded plan or vision, the church is vulnerable to having outside parties set the direction, which may not align with the best interest and desires of the church and congregation.

History

South Presbyterian Church was established in 1849 as a Sunday school. The school was located in a red brick schoolhouse on the northwest corner of the present day Mt. Hope Avenue and Crittenden Boulevard intersection. At that time this site was adjacent to the Crittenden Race Track and the school was established out of concern for the welfare of the neighborhood children. During and after the Civil War, the organization continued to be a presence in the neighborhood. The growing leadership, attendance and number of services provided by the school made it necessary to find a larger place to meet. In 1895, the group voted to incorporate into a legal organization and obtain land to erect a church. On June 11, 1895, they became the West Brighton Chapel Society, and the newly created congregation moved down the street from the school house to a lot gifted to them by Mrs. Emmeline Bell Barker (previous Record Archive location). The cornerstone was laid on July 7, 1895 and the chapel was completed on October 27.

Motorcycle race at the Crittenden Rack Track, circa 1912

Crittenden Rack Track grandstands slated for demolition, circa 1915

Between 1895 and 1925 the growing City of Rochester was incorporating land at its edges, including West Brighton in 1923. During that time, the members of the West Brighton Chapel Society decided to formally associate their church with the Presbytery of Rochester and they renamed it the West Brighton Presbyterian Church. By then, the church's membership and influence was steadily growing and there was once again a need for the congregation to obtain larger quarters. In 1924, Mrs. Emmeline Bell Barker donated more land to the congregation on the corner of E. Henrietta Road and Stokes Street (now Fort Hill Terrace). The construction of the renamed South Presbyterian Church began on June 7, 1925 and was completed in April 1926. The exterior of the building is made of red tapestry brick and trimmed with Norristone. With the larger building came expansion in the church's program to address the growing neighborhood. A number of new homes were built in the area in the late 1920s and new families moved in which further increased membership of the church.

In 1950 the lot adjacent to the church was purchased and Architect Donald Walzer was commissioned to expand the building, adding space for a new school. The inauguration ceremony was held on July 5, 1953. By 1959, the church membership had grown to 732 permanent members and most Sunday services were well attended, filling the sanctuary and the balcony. Throughout many years, wars and hardships the church remained a presence in the community by creating and supporting programs that met the needs of the neighborhood and its surrounding areas. Although the church has seen a significant decline in membership, it continues that tradition, boasting over 15,000 yearly visits to various community programs. With its loyal congregation South Presbyterian Church seeks to reinvent the organization for the future.

New Church. This work progress photograph of "Henrietta Rd. and Stokes St." is dated April 20, 1926. South Presbyterian Church organized in 1895 as the West Brighton Chapel Society. The brick church was built about 1926. Since there were no street numbers at that location, it was not listed on either street in 1928, but under churches at Mount Hope Avenue and Stokes Street. Additions were made in 1954 and 1960. Previously, the congregation had worshiped on Mount Hope Avenue in the wooden building that most recently was Record Archive. (Courtesy City of Rochester Archives.)

The Charrette Workshop

Coordination and Planning

Planning for the South Presbyterian Church Community Charrette Workshop began in 2011 and has been guided by the SPC Steering Committee composed of representatives from the Congregation, the City of Rochester, the Mt. Hope Business Association and others working in conjunction with the RRCDC. They reviewed a time line and planning schedule, established the charrette workshop boundaries and focus areas and identified potential partners.

The committee met monthly with the RRCDC to assist in coordinating the Charrette Workshop. During meetings and a walking tour of the area with the RRCDC, much of the discussion and planning focused on the topics to be covered during the Charrette Workshop. The committee defined the Charrette Workshop's focus areas and identified major design concerns based on an assessment of the existing assets and problem areas. They were also instrumental in planning the structure of and coordinated the logistics of the Charrette Workshop event.

Charrette Workshop Event

The Charrette Workshop took place on Saturday May 18, 2013 in the Fellowship Hall at the South Presbyterian Church. The event attracted over 60 residents and stakeholders and over 16 design professionals who served as facilitators. A great range of people representing the community participated in the half day event which began with registration at 8:30 a.m. This was followed by a presentation by the RRCDC and continued until 12:30 p.m. including a site walkthrough, brainstorming session, and culminating in a final presentation of work and ideas by each of the eight groups.

Attendees worked in eight different groups exploring two pre-determined focus areas. Half of the groups explored options for retaining the building and site. They came up with ideas that allow for the preservation of the buildings and the best use of the site's resources. This included enhancing the historic role of the facility while allowing appropriate new development and programming. The other groups investigated possibilities for alternative site plans. This included the potential for adaptive reuse of some of the existing structure as well as selling the property so that the site might be completely redeveloped.

For an intense hour and a half, the teams comprised of facilitators, members of the congregation, residents, and stakeholders, took note of both the positive and negative features of the site and drafted comments and ideas to be included in a vision for improvements and changes. The teams began drafting both written notes and visual renderings expressing their ideas. To conclude the charrette workshop, everyone gathered and each group made a brief presentation to everyone explaining their ideas. The materials produced at the Charrette Workshop have been scanned and the notes from each group transcribed.

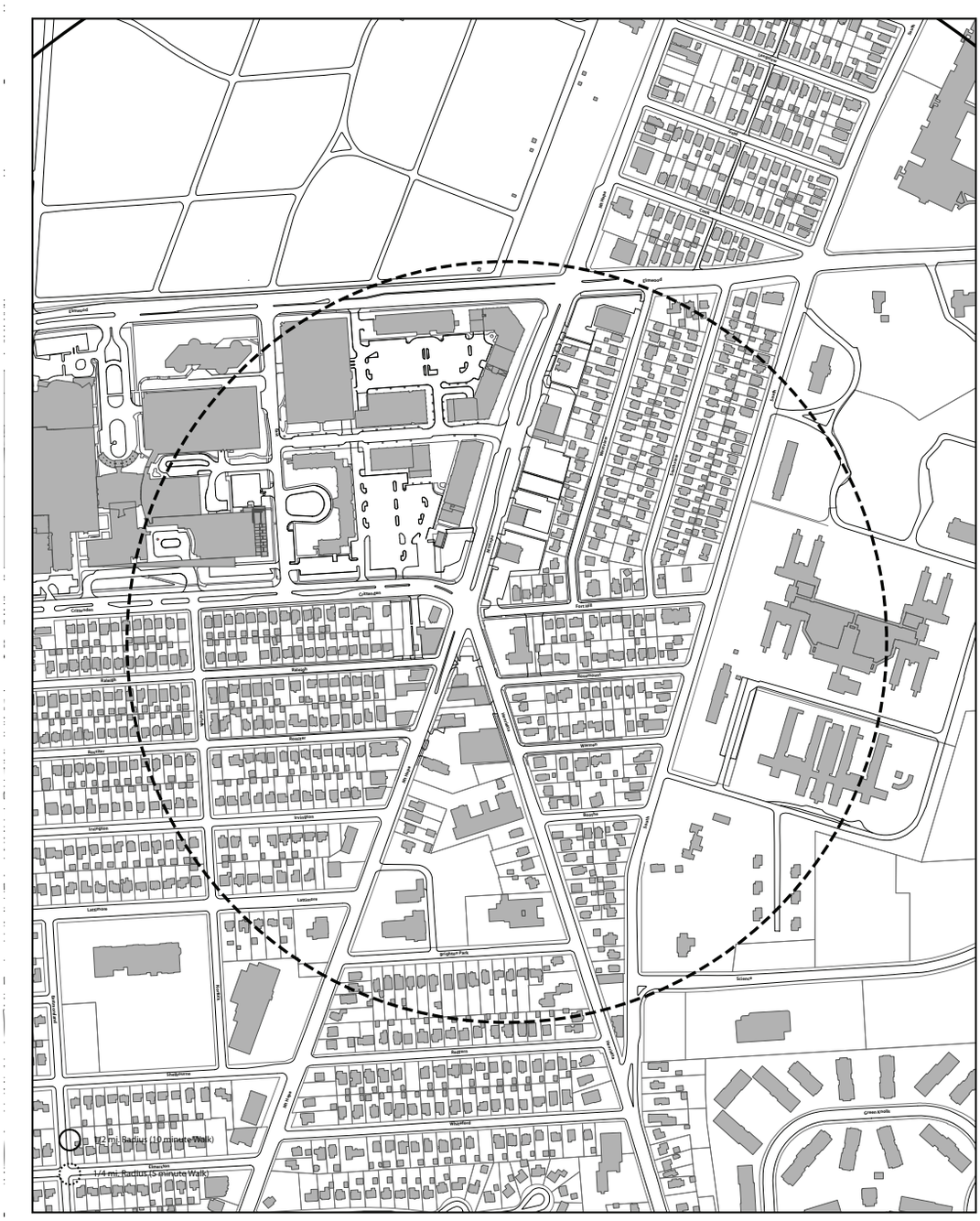
The Charrette Materials

Context Map

This map shows the South Presbyterian Church in the context of the neighborhoods and major institutions that surround it. The solid black circle signifies a half mile radius around the church, which can be walked in ten minutes. This circle encompasses major Rochester institutions such as historic Mt. Hope Cemetery, Strong Memorial Hospital, and the University of Rochester.

Area Map

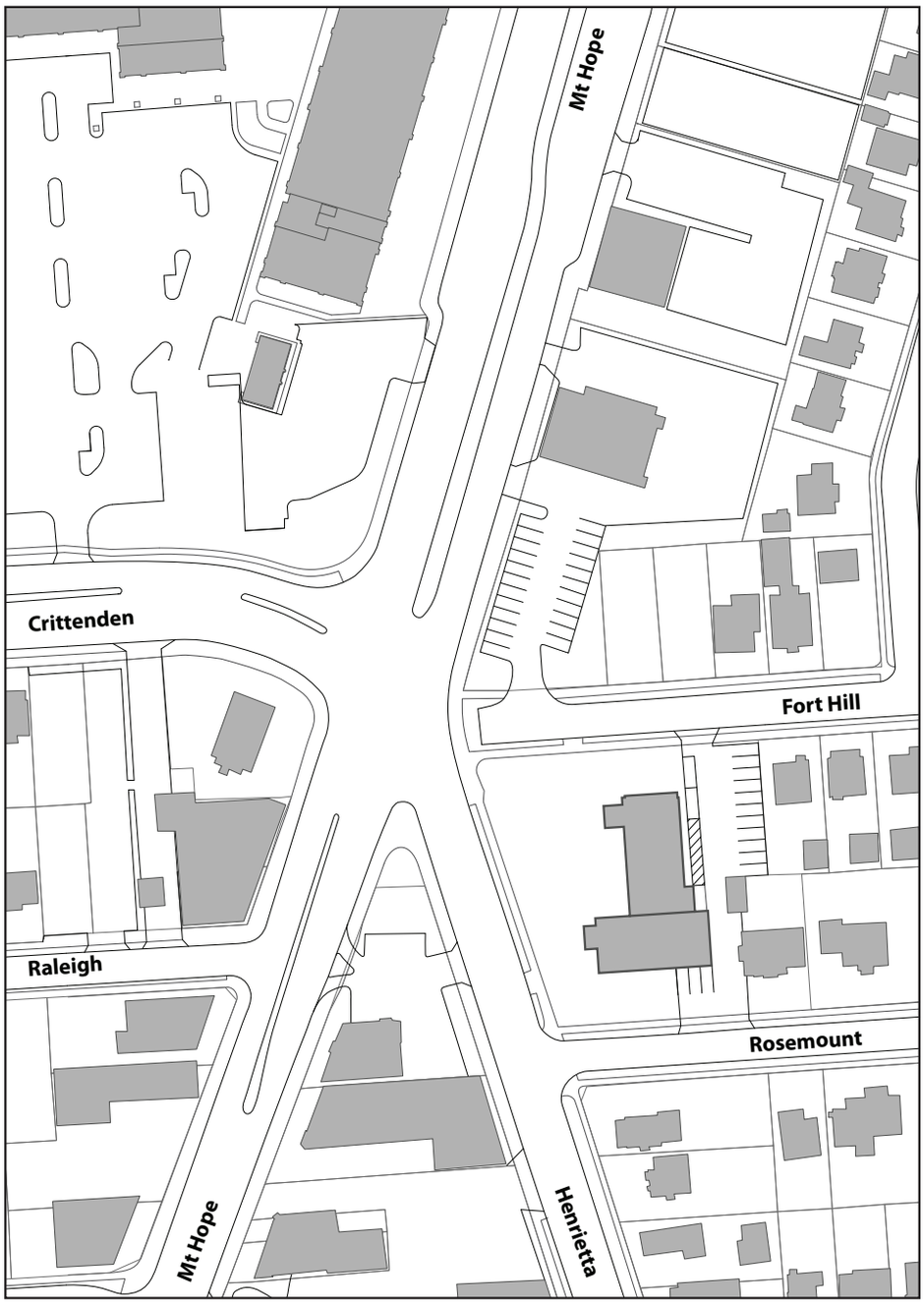
This map shows the immediate area around the South Presbyterian Church. The solid dotted black circle signifies a quarter mile radius around the church, which can be walked in five minutes. Within this circle is a section of the neighborhood, the Mt. Hope commercial strip, Strong Memorial Hospital, and the University of Rochester's new Collegetown development.



The Charrette Materials

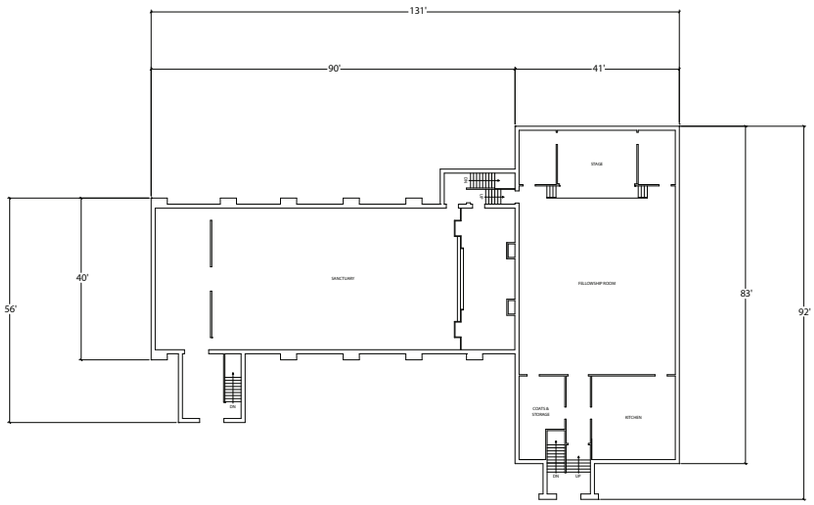
Site Map

This map shows the South Presbyterian Church site and its immediate surroundings. It was used by groups during the charrette to illustrate their ideas for the church's grounds and its connections to the public realm. The map was up to date at the time of the charrette, including the nearly completed Mt. Hope Avenue developments and the closing of Fort Hill Terrace.

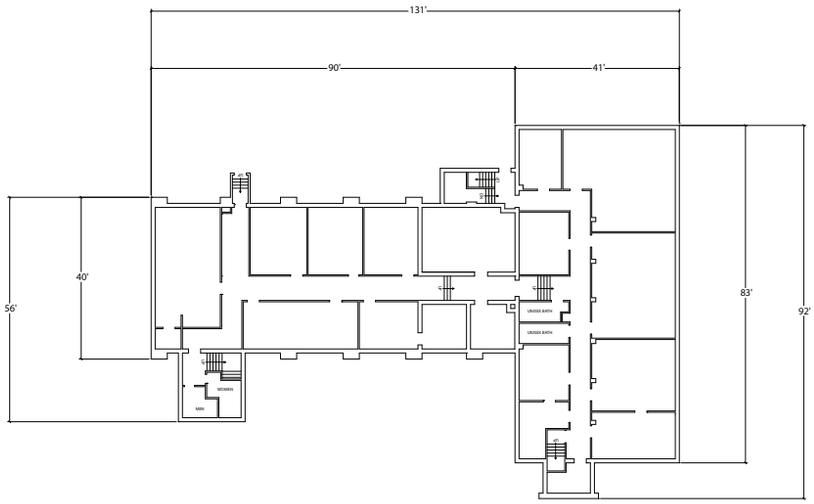


Building Plans

These building plans were recreated using the original blueprints as well as those from the 1950's when the addition was built. The building plans were available at each table to illustrate ideas for any interior alterations. Suggested changes include the installation of an elevator and reconfiguration of spaces to accommodate new programmatic uses.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN

Focus Area 1

Boundaries

This area includes the site of the current South Presbyterian Church building, both original and addition, and the entire site owned by the organization bounded by Mt. Hope Avenue, E. Henrietta Road, Fort Hill Terrace and Rosemount Street.

Primary Focus

Provide ideas that allow for the preservation of buildings and best use of the site's resources while enhancing the historic role of and importance of the facility while allowing appropriate new development and programming.

Concerns to address

- Preserving historic building – historical architectural asset;
- Access and circulation;
- Physical presence and appearance;
- Parking;
- Identity in neighborhood and community at large.

Programmatic Use of Church and Site

- Existing and new use possibilities;
- New funding streams – rentals, grants;
- Programmatic partnerships;
- Creative underwriting.

Character & Appearance

- Iconic symbol of integrity, permanence and spiritual quality;
- Prominence of geographical location;
- Promote enhancement of building and site to neighborhood and community.

Physical Building

- Upkeep/maintenance – money, time, resources;
- Replace and upgrade systems;
- Short and long term cyclical maintenance plan;
- Financial constraints;

Site Limitations and Opportunities

- Green space – utilizing and enhancing;
- Quality of surrounding public realm;
- Pedestrian environment – intersection; street crossing;
- Public transportation;
- Access and parking limitations;

Goals

- Encourage prudent use of existing resources;
- Produce a plan for preservation and maintenance;
- Adopt design standards for development to guide future use and upkeep;
- Develop programmatic themes and strategies to make facility a destination.

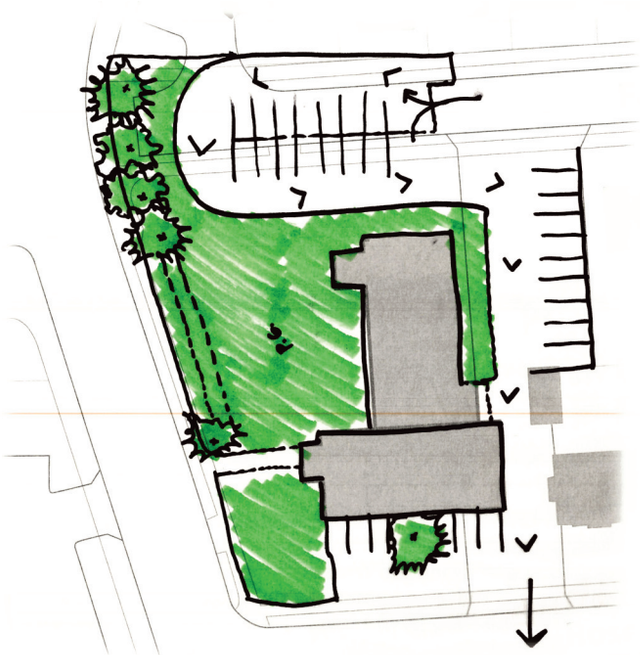
Develop strategies to:

- Utilize the inherent qualities of building, site, and attributes to strengthen its sense of place;
- Consider opportunities as a destination;
- Provide ideas for short and long term use that respond to community needs and mission of congregation.

Focus Area 1 Workshop Results

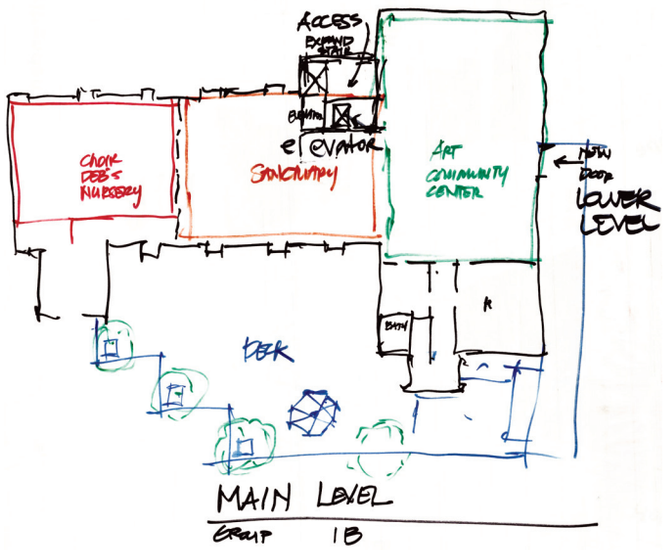
General

- *"Stay Who We Are"*
- Relocating the congregation
    - Moving to a nearby house
    - Church on the first floor
    - Offices and classrooms on the second
- Renting a space vs. buying another building
- Opportunity to sell the existing property
- Become a tenant in a non-profit building
- Congregation is more than a church; but a community
- Church Mission should be retained



Accessibility Problems / Challenges

- Building access is a challenge
- Problematic location and building orientation
    - Building gets overlooked
    - Passed by vehicles and pedestrians
    - High vehicular speed
- Closing of Fort Hill Terrace to thru traffic
    - Difficult to get to the church
    - Forced to enter from South Avenue
- Configuration of the parking lot
- Handicapped accessibility
    - Must be addressed to remain on site
    - Five levels throughout building
    - No ramps



Building and Site Issues

- Structural and mechanical problems
- Moisture problems in the walls and the roof
- Heating and boiler systems maintenance
- Drainage issues on the grounds
- Cost / upkeep is growing and unmanageable
- Costly landscaping issues
- Need for additional parking

Focus Area 1 Workshop Results

Exterior Accessibility Recommendations

- Building and grounds should be accessible to everyone
    - Sidewalk enhancements
    - Within and surrounding the grounds
- Improve the pedestrian-friendliness
- A drive in front of the building
    - Drop off location for those with disabilities
    - Pavement may be an eyesore
    - Drive may become a public through-way
    - Could gate this entrance and landscape
- Parking
    - Move the existing light pole to reconfigure the lot
    - Double the amount of spaces
    - May be room for a center island
    - Could be landscaped

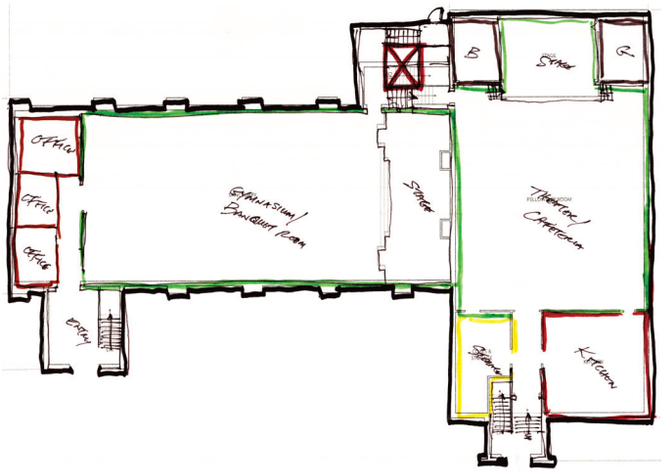
Landscaping Recommendations

- Sculpture / garden near the intersection
- Give the church a stronger street presence
- *"Announce to the community who we are"*
- Illuminating the tower
    - Shine a light on the church's presence
- Exterior space for the church and other programs
- Installation of a deck or patio in the front lawn

.

Interior Accessibility Recommendations

- Improving handicapped accessibility
    - Elevator / lift system
    - Centrally located to access every level
- How will the building's uses be organized
    - Vertically vs. horizontally
- Combination of the elevator and ramps
    - Increase the ease of travel
    - Smaller incremental levels
    - Particularly in the basements
- Five separate levels but two main floors



MAIN LEVEL FLOOR PLAN

LOWER LEVEL
BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN

Interior Spatial Reconfiguration

- Reorganize the building layout
    - *"Spread out and prevent congestion"*
    - *"Flexibility"* to allow for a multiple uses
    - Removal of the sanctuary pews
    - Smaller congregation needs less space
    - Church offices move to the sanctuary
    - Free up the basement for other uses
- Removing the addition
    - The kitchen could be moved downstairs
    - EBNS moves to sanctuary basement
- Dedicated to community programs
- Church without walls
- Additional restrooms would need
    - Plumbing in room off the Fellowship Hall

Potential Programmatic Uses

- Retain existing programs such as:
    - Ellwanger Barry Nursery School
    - Futurpointe Dance
    - 12 Step Programs
- Current programs are well subscribed
- What programs are needed in the community
    - Community gathering space
    - Space for activities (i.e. bake sales, etc.).
- Fellowship Hall
    - Multi Purpose Performance Space (Theater, Dance, Music, etc.)
    - An Art Center / Gallery Space
    - Hall and Kitchen Rental for Events
    - Commercial Kitchen / Cooking Lessons
    - General Community Room
- Develop educational programs/groups for all ages
    - Pre –K
    - Kindergarten
    - Adult Classes
    - 1 Month Classes
    - Art Classes
    - Music Lessons
    - BOCES Style Classes
- Library / Learning Center
- Wellness Center
- Healthy Lifestyle
- Healthy Food Access (Community Gardens)
- Business Co – Ops
- Support Groups
- Youth Programs
- Need strict scheduling requirements
    - Especially in rooms that have multi-uses
- Become a Wi-Fi hub
- The lower levels or the addition could be housing
    - Short term housing
    - Supports people in need
    - Recovering from mental illness
- Partnerships and collaboration essential to its success.

Potential Partnerships

- Successful Neighborhood Groups
    - Neighborhood of the Arts – University Ave
    - South Wedge
- Educational Partners
    - U of R
    - Eastman School of Music
    - Hochstein's School of Music
    - RIT
- Draw From a Regional Population
    - Workers at Strong
    - U of R Faculty
- Partnership with U of R (students/parents)

Focus Area 2

Boundaries

This area includes the site of the current South Presbyterian Church building and the entire site owned by the organization bounded by Mt. Hope Avenue, East Henrietta Road, Fort Hill Terrace and Rosemount Street.

Primary Focus

Provide ideas for creative redevelopment and reuse of site.

Concerns to address

- Potential development opportunities;
- Access and circulation;
- Physical presence and appearance;
- Parking;
- Identity in neighborhood and community at large.

Alternative Models

- Building removed;
- Relocation of church;
- Leasing space back;
- CCC- non-profit;
- Satellite – rental;
- Purchase of adjacent house(s).

Redevelopment Opportunities

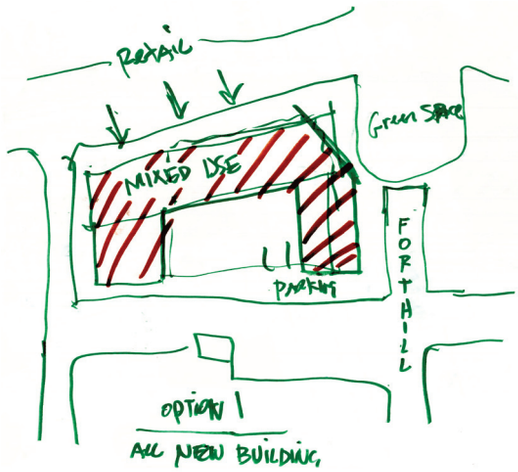
- Neighborhood and community needs;
- Positive aspects of location;
- Limitations of site;
- Access and circulation;
- Potential uses.

Goals

- Encourage prudent use of site and amenities;
- Produce a plan for best and highest use;
- Adopt design standards for redevelopment that will contribute to neighborhood and community;
- Develop programmatic themes and strategies to make the site a destination.

Develop strategies to

- Utilize the area's inherent qualities and attributes to strengthen its sense of place;
- Improve and enhance the quality of the pedestrian environment.



Focus Area 2 Workshop Results

General

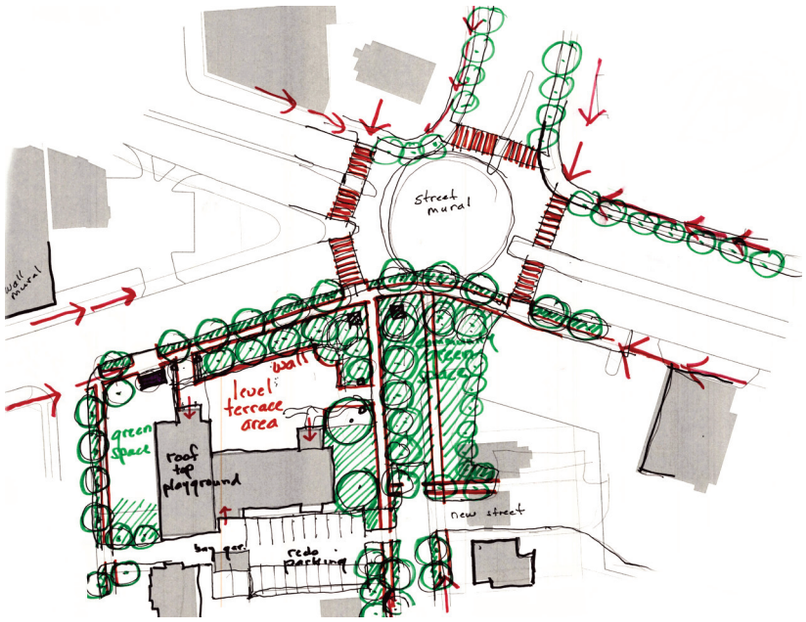
- Is it necessary to keep the building?
- Sell the property to a developer
    - Use funds to purchase a more manageable building
    - Occupy a store front
- South Presbyterian is viewed as just "any church,"
- Needs to be the "Anchor" in a transitional neighborhood
- Open a connection to the surrounding neighborhoods.
- Being sacred is not as important as being engaged with the community.

What Works

- Keep the building (specifically the sanctuary)
- Ellwanger Barry Nursery School
- Building is a good gathering place
- Preserve the sanctuary's stained glass windows
    - Could be reused at a new site
- Beautiful grounds
- Preserve and build upon upon the existing landscape

Existing Problems / Challenges

- The building's mundane character overall
- Lack of a substantial entry point with a lobby or vestibule
- The basement has a closed in feeling
    - The brick walls are not structural
- Issues of maintenance costs
    - Asbestos and foundational problems
    - Becoming too expensive to address.
- Rethink parking options
    - Consider nearby public parking (lot or street)
- No thru traffic
- One vehicular entry and exit point
- Nursery school playground not connected the building
    - Potential safety concerns.
- Slope of the property
    - Potential for drainage / water issues
    - Alter property to eliminate slope
    - Affects visibility to and from the street and intersection
    - Blocks noise from the intersection



Focus Area 2 Workshop Results

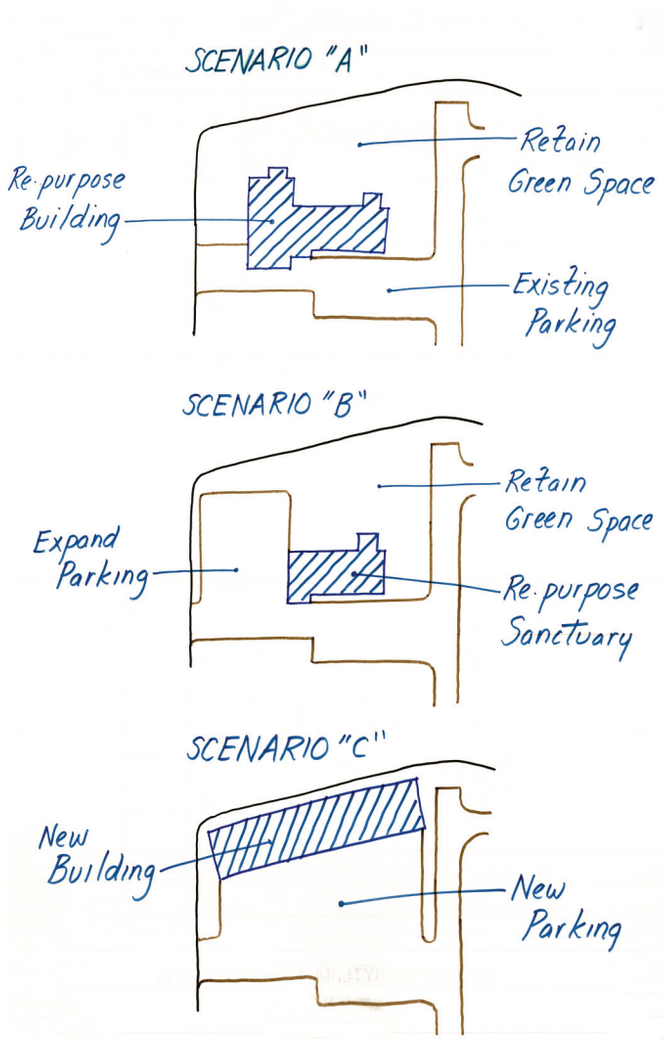
Programmatic Use

- Address community needs
    - Health / fitness
    - Spirituality
    - Small gatherings
    - YMCA outreach location
- Mix of "Interfaith and Multi-functional space"
- Community Center
- Arts/performance Center
- Child Care Center am/pm
- Drop in wellness- physical, social, spiritual
- Conferencing/Seminar Center
- Education/Lectures/Class
- Outdoor Outfitter/ Biking Center
- Lending Library
- Nursery School (retain existing EBNS)
- Day Care
- Head Start program
- Community Engagement
- Grocery / Fresh Foods Market

Adaptive Reuse

- Repurpose the existing buildings for other uses
- Sanctuary
    - Restaurant/café entire space
    - Restaurant/cafe in the organ loft
    - May conflict with the College Town
- Theater/performance space
- Bicycle shop
    - Promotes multi-modal transportation
    - Repair / rentals / local all ages bike clubs
- Addition
    - Housing development
    - Upper floor could be divided up into condos or apartments
    - Additional level would be incorporated to create more space
    - Lower level - EBNS

- With the grade change, the housing would match up with a new two story mixed-use development along E. Henrietta Road
    - Would create a "U" shape
    - Surrounds a central green space
    - Accommodates new playground for EBNS



Building Recommendations / Alterations

- Existing building
    - Rethink sanctuary basement
    - Provide opportunities for new uses
- Handicapped accessibility features throughout
    - Ramps / Elevator / Lift
    - New and updated restrooms (handicapped accessible)
- Addition is expendable and can be rebuilt to
    - Enhance overall functionality of the site
- Establish a main entry into the building
- Maintain physical transparency
    - Glassy box to encourage a view in and out

Grounds Recommendations / Alterations

- Need for a "Face" toward the Mt. Hope Avenue and E. Henrietta Road
- Outdoor community space
    - Formal or informal
    - Meditation garden located near the intersection
- Connect the building to the street
    - Network of walkways
- Sculptures and vertical elements
- Leveling slope makes outdoor space functional
- Keep the grounds informal
    - Implement a rooftop playground/ community garden
- Tower enhancements
    - Could be lit to highlight

Neighborhood Recommendations / Alterations

- Physically enhance the connection to the community
- Increase pedestrian safety
- Intersection of Mt. Hope Avenue
    - Enhanced crosswalks
    - Pedestrian refuge islands
    - Countdown crossing signs
- Appropriate lighting options
- Tree lined streets
- Improve the bus stop
    - Potential design completion
    - Shelter that identifies with the church
- Art in/on the street
    - Street paintings and murals
- Public green space at end of Fort Hill Terrace
    - Better utilized by the public
    - Seating
    - Plantings
    - Bicycle infrastructure

Parking & Circulation

- Parking satisfied by public lots and streets
- Drop off zone for handicapped / elderly
    - Purchase the garage
    - Add more spaces
    - Allow for better circulation
- Reopen the lot to thru traffic
    - Flow in one direction only
- Used the elevation change
    - Underground parking under the existing building
    - No change in footprint
    - More easily under new buildings
- Dead end portion of Fort Hill Terrace
    - Public parking vs. public green space

Sustainable Approaches

- Promote an environmental message
- Any development should be sustainable
- Alternative energy (Wind and Sun)
- Lighten financial responsibilities

Guiding Principles

1

Retaining our present location as the platform for our ongoing Urban Ministry :

- We represent historical continuity by doing ministry and embodying God's living word in this neighborhood since the 1840's;
- We are the only mainline Protestant Church in this part of the City of Rochester;
- We recognize those who came before us and who donated the land we currently occupy;
- Our longevity of presence balances the focus on new construction along Mt. Hope Avenue as well as the transient nature of young professionals who live here;
- The boundaries of Collegetown are bookended by the historical presence of both Mt. Hope Cemetery and South Presbyterian Church (the oldest institutions in this neighborhood).

2

Creating a "Hybrid Identity":

- SPC will strategically cultivate partnerships and, where necessary, provide appropriate building changes as needed;
- We want our campus to reflect the harmonious and composite nature of the collective identity while maintaining the "church" presence that spiritually nurtures both members and non-members;
- Our Church Use Partners (CUP's) will range from those who are able to pay market-driven rates to those who are volunteer driven and might pay reduced "good-faith" rates for space (such as twelve-step programs);
- SPC is not able to carry a negative sum balance in terms of its CUP's costs and must have "anchor partners" that guarantee steady income to retain our presence and do the work of the Church;
- We encourage partnerships, recognizing that some potential CUP's might have specialized needs.

3

Seeking Design that complements our slogan, "Transform Your Spirit; Transform Our World" and unifies new development in all aspects:

- Public realm as well as the building, signage, circulation, and green space;
- Private property through design, re-purposing, and new construction that reflects our values of openness and hospitality as well as our commitment to ministry through the arts and education;
- This spirit of transformation is to be aesthetically reflected in our building and our grounds as well as our partnerships, programs, and position as a member of the larger community;
- We recognize that SPC is an "entryway / portal" for those in transition. SPC bridges:
    - The secular and spiritual realms of personal existence;
    - The commercial and residential experiences along the Avenue;
    - The urban and suburban nature of this gateway community.

4 **Maintaining a low carbon footprint through the creative and effective use of Green Technology in:**

- Landscape design;
- Building materials;
- Use of alternative energy and energy-efficient HVAC options;
- Promoting pedestrian and bike traffic through safe and attractive paths and bicycle infrastructure;

- It is our duty as Stewards of Creation to model responsible partnerships with the natural world;
- Designing our grounds as open space to be shared by the community contributes to a positive quality of life for all to enjoy in meditation, outdoor gatherings, etc;
- Creating an aesthetic flow between the exterior natural environment and our internal one.

5 **Developing parking strategies for better use of space, aesthetic consideration, and accessibility. This will be done through:**

- Reconfiguring existing parking lots, exploring parking options elsewhere on the property, as well as public parking areas;
- Creating traffic flow patterns that promote safe discharge and loading of handicapped / disabled passengers;
- Providing secure, but attractive, bicycle infrastructure.

6 **In Five Years, God willing, we see ourselves as:**

- A springboard for the work of our missional faith community, and an attractive place to gather for inspiration;
- A place that recharges those attending to go out into the world and act with the love and compassion of Jesus;
- A neighborhood hub, providing attractive, accessible space for community meetings as well as beautiful worship space for those seeking to praise God;
- A voice for the voiceless and advocate for those who are unable to advocate for themselves;
- A place of comfort for the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual vicissitudes of life through embodying the presence of a loving, accepting and non-condemning God;
- A vibrant part of Urban Presbyterians Together and the living ministry of Jesus Christ;
- A standard bearer for the beauty and harmony of the neighborhood;
- A reflection of historical presence, current adaptation, and future vision for those who worship with us as well as those who engage us from the outside as friend, neighbor and community resource.

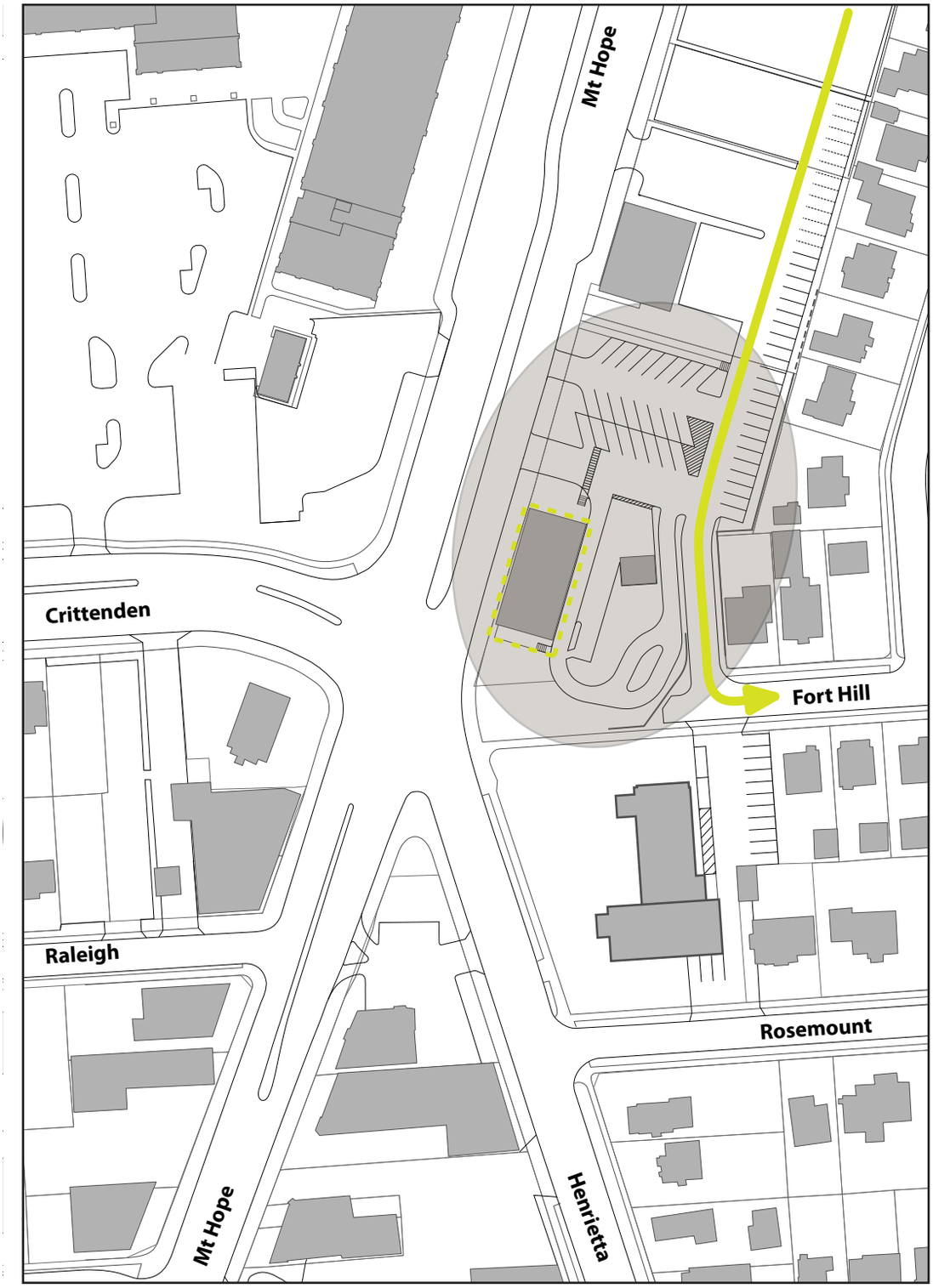
Vision Plan Overview

This Vision Plan is to be used as a guide for the future of the South Presbyterian Church and its campus. While not producing any specific plans for development, this document looks at the existing conditions of the buildings and grounds, cataloging the strengths and weaknesses. Additionally, it will provide and explore potential scenarios for the future of the site, including physical and programmatic examples. These scenarios and suggestions were taken from the community Charrette Workshop and developed into possible strategies. The strategies were based on several meetings with the Session and their decision to retain the church and its site. This will be an ongoing process and so the plan suggests phasing the development into short-term as well as long-term approaches and goals.

The Charrette Workshop took place in the middle of a long redevelopment effort along the Mt. Hope Avenue corridor. This redevelopment involves a reconfiguration of the road, intersection, sidewalks and the construction of new buildings. It will also include the development of a new road named Celebration Drive. Celebration Drive will begin in the Strong Memorial Hospital campus, cross Mt. Hope Avenue, and run behind the Mt. Hope businesses terminating at Fort Hill Terrace and the rear of South Presbyterian Church. The new base map incorporates these future plans in order to better understand how they will affect SPC, and how SPC will interact with it. Major components of this development include Celebration Drive itself, developing the end of Fort Hill Terrace for a new restaurant and its queue, and the elimination of an existing parking lot used by the SPC congregation.

See Map

Updated Base Map



Work With What You Have

One thing that is certain moving forward is that, at the very least, SPC will retain the sanctuary. The existing addition is currently an asset to the church and its desire to expand on programmatic uses. Its future, however, has yet to be decided. The Session (the SPC church council) and the SPC congregation are very proactive and there are initial steps that can be taken to begin transforming the building and site into the "Hybrid Ministry" they seek to become. These steps include:

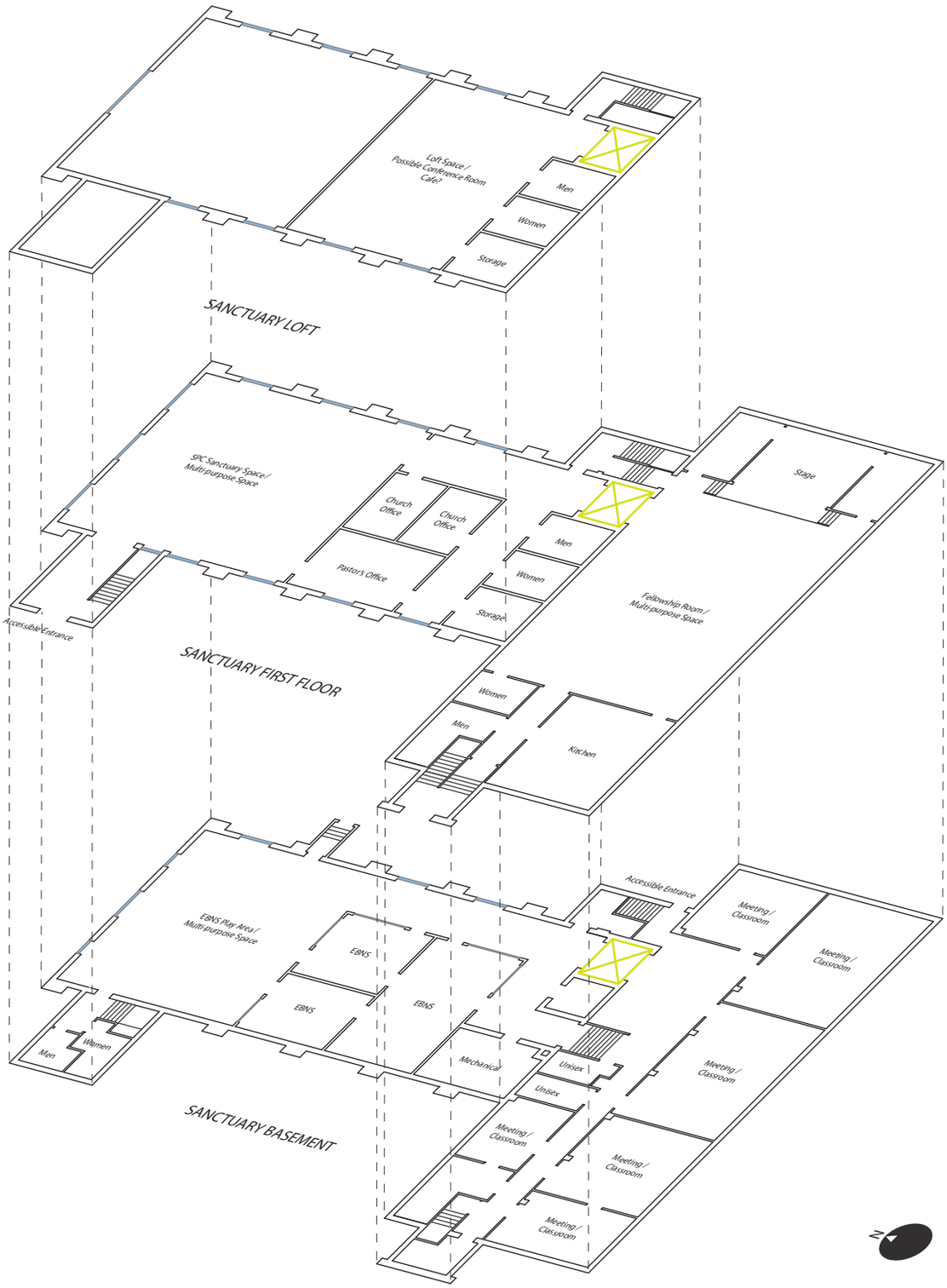
- Assess the physical condition of the building and its mechanical systems;
- Reconfigure the layout of the Church's Sanctuary and lower level;
- Explore the existing parking capacity and potential parking scenarios;
- Look into potential options for increasing accessibility to, from, and within the building;
- Address the grounds and landscaping issues;
- Seek out partnerships and new programmatic uses.

Assessing the Building

Before moving forward it is important to take inventory of what you already have. It was noted during the Charrette Workshop that there are water and HVAC issues throughout the building. SPC is already taking steps to look into and fix these problems. These issues are a priority and will need to be addressed before any major developments can take place.

Spatial Reconfiguration

SPC can maximize the use of its existing interior space by reconfiguring it. Currently the upper and lower levels of the sanctuary building are being used for church purposes only. This is more space than needed due to the congregations reduced size. It was suggested that moving all of the church functions to the first floor of the Sanctuary building would make efficient use of the building's space and allow for the basement to be occupied by other groups, clubs, or organizations. In this scenario it will be occupied by the Ellwanger Barry Nursery School (EBNS). EBNS is a crucial part of SPC's mission and important to the future of the Church. Relocating EBNS to the lower level of the Sanctuary will allow them to spread out and have potential to expand. This will also free up the addition for alternate uses. Should it be decided that the addition will be removed or replaced, this reconfiguration will ensure that the site's two main uses are retained.


Loft Space /
Possible Conference Room
Cafe?
Men
Women
Storage
SANCTUARY LOFT
SPC Sanctuary Space /
Multi-purpose Space
Church
Office
Church
Office
Pastor's Office
Men
Women
Storage
Stage
Fellowship Room /
Multi-purpose Space
Accessible Entrance
SANCTUARY FIRST FLOOR
Women
Men
Kitchen
Accessible Entrance
EBNS Play Area /
Multi-purpose Space
EBNS
EBNS
EBNS
Women
Men
Mechanical
Unisex
Unisex
Meeting /
Classroom
Meeting /
Classroom
Meeting /
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SANCTUARY BASEMENT

Work With What You Have

Accessibility

A major component of any future reconfiguration or development for SPC is that there will be an increase of accessibility for the disabled and handicapped. Currently, the Sanctuary building and the addition are vertically offset creating five separate levels within the building. These levels are separated by as little as three steps to as much as an entire flight of stairs but create challenges for moving through the building. The only current means of accessibility enhancement is a chair lift in the back stair well. A common solution discussed at the Charrette Workshop was to install an elevator or lift within the building. This is an effective solution, however, it would be difficult to locate the elevator in a place that can access every level. Eliminating some of the smaller level changes, particularly in the Sanctuary basement, or using a combination of ramps and an elevator/ lift system would be ideal.

In the schematic lay out for the reconfiguration of the Sanctuary building, the elevator is located in the southwest corner where the existing chancel is located. This is the best location to access all levels including:

1A - Sanctuary Basement (EBNS)

1B - Addition Basement (Meeting / Classrooms)

2A - Sanctuary / Church offices

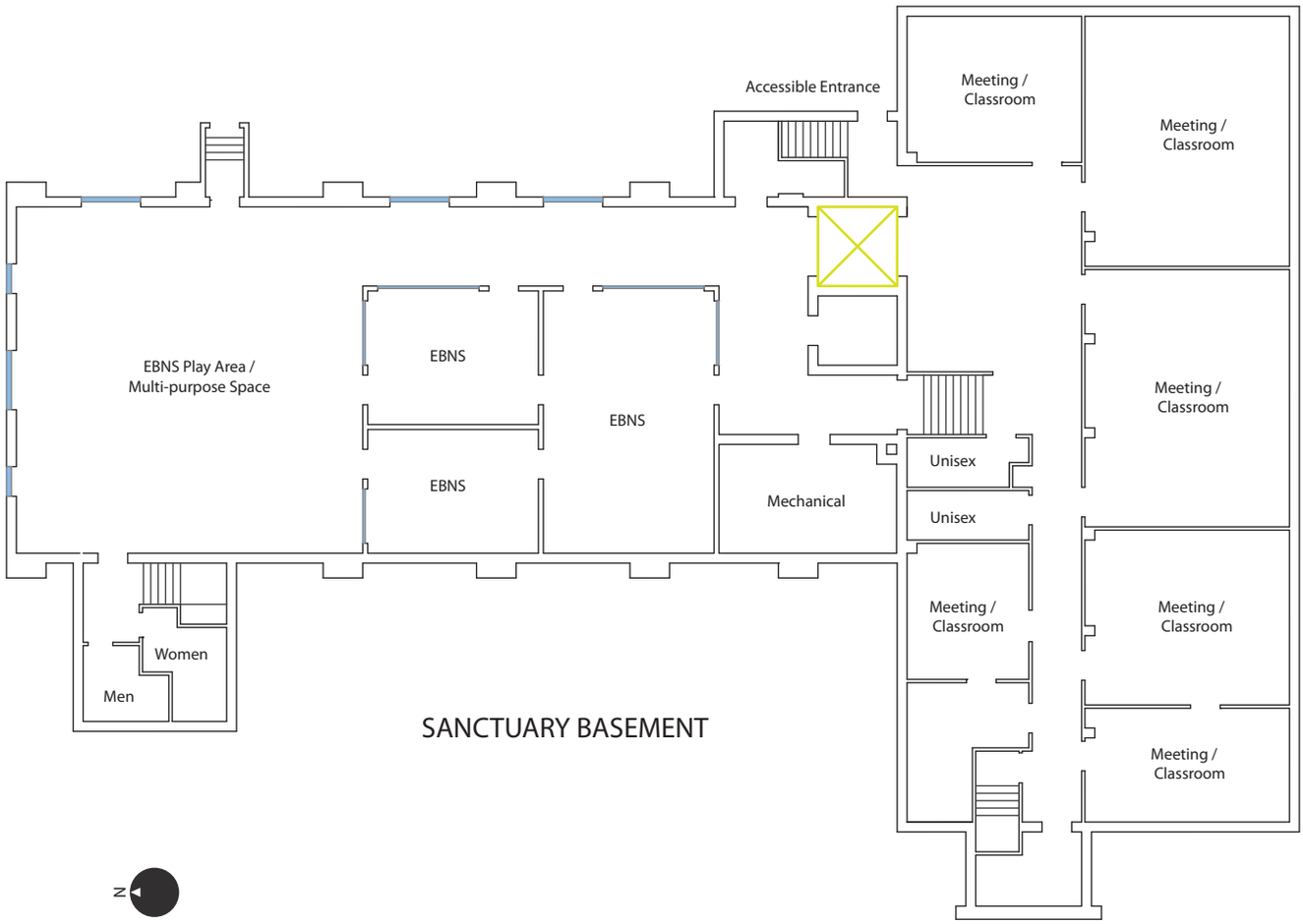
2B - Fellowship Room / Kitchen

3A - Loft (Potential Meeting Space / Café)

The elevator would require two doors (front and back) to efficiently access all levels. The inclusion of an elevator will increase the number of accessible entrances to two, making the entire building accessible to the disabled and handicapped.

Signage for a handicapped accessible entrance

Elevator with two entry / exit points



Sanctuary Basement

The lower level of the Sanctuary was originally an open multi-purpose space. It was eventually reconfigured to accommodate offices for the church administration and small gathering spaces. With a reduced congregation the additional space is not required and all of the church functions can be located on the upper level of the Sanctuary. With the future of the addition uncertain the Ellwanger Barry Nursery School can relocate into the sanctuary. This move will have many benefits:

- EBNS will be given more space. The schematic plans show three rooms dedicated to the nursery school with an additional multi-purpose area that will be available to EBNS as well as other groups that might require a large space after school hours.

Work With What You Have

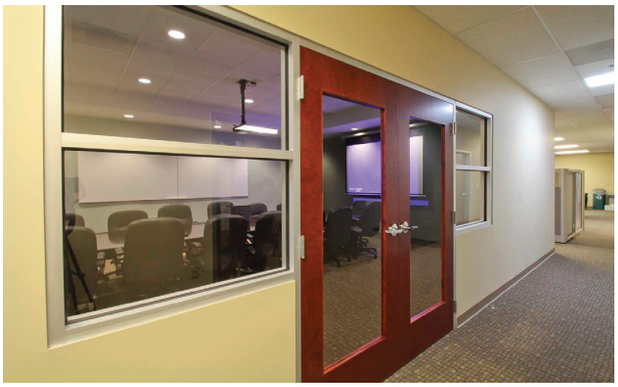
- The new EBNS location is more secluded than the previous one. If the building is going to be used by various other groups, having the nursery school more isolated increases safety.

- The existing bathrooms under the tower could be renovated and once again used. They would be dedicated to both EBNS and other groups using that space.

- The school would have its own dedicated entrance. In addition to the rear accessible entrance, EBNS will also have its own entrance to the rear of the building. This entrance would link EBNS to its proposed playground location on the north end of the sanctuary building.

There has been some concern about the amount of natural light entering the space. There are six existing windows that could be exposed by locating the EBNS rooms opposite the windows, creating a naturally lit corridor during the day. If necessary, the area around the windows could be excavated to create light wells and the windows could then be enlarged providing more light. These light wells can also serve as emergency exits for programs on the lower level of the building. Since the EBNS rooms will not have any exterior windows, the walls of its rooms could have large interior windows that allow the outside light in. The windows within the walls will increase the transparency of the space and make it feel more open.

Light wells around basement windows to let in more light.



Interior windows let in natural light and make the space feel open.

Light wells can also serve as emergency exits.

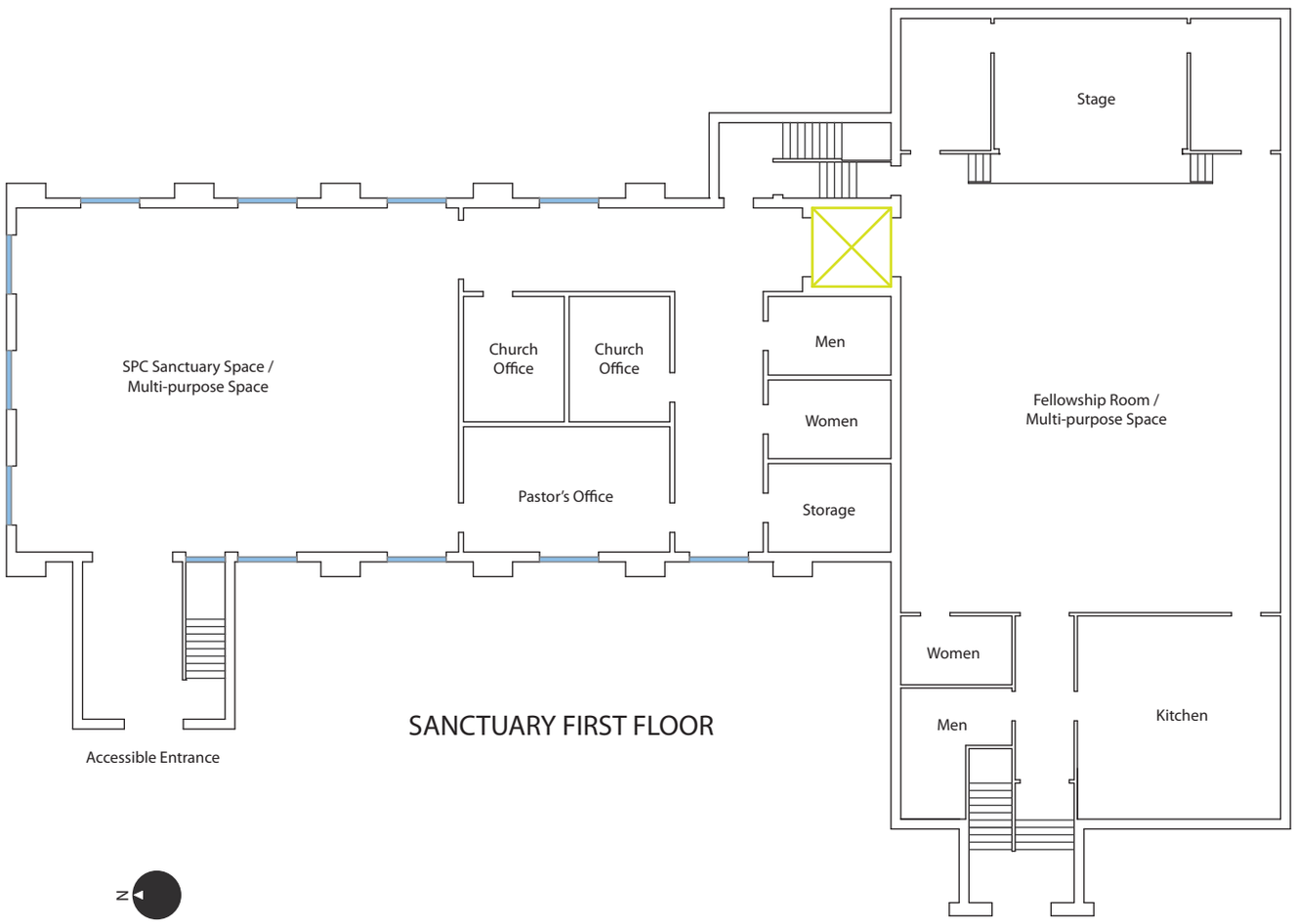
Interior windows let in natural light and make the space feel open.

Sanctuary

The reconfiguration of the sanctuary building hinges on the relocation of the church offices to the first floor. The existing sanctuary is much larger than required and is often underutilized. By removing the pews and creating a flexible worshiping space in the north end of the sanctuary, the church offices can be moved into the south end. The north end of the building was chosen for the sanctuary space for two reasons:

- It is closest to the main entrance under the tower;
- It will make the large stained glass window at the north end of the building become the focal point of that space.

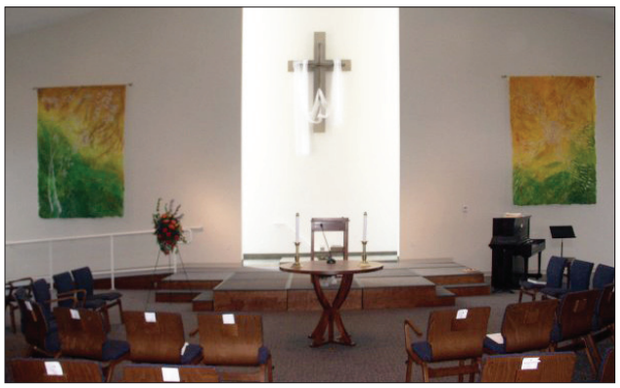
There is however a potential conflict with the existing organ loft. Removal of the loft will depend on the feelings of the congregation and it could be decided that the organ should be relocated within the space. A key component of the new worshiping space is that it is flexible to accommodate multiple uses.



Work With What You Have

This means that there will not be any permanent seating. Chairs can be moved or removed depending on the needs of the group using the space. This promotes a more intimate atmosphere for worship in that the congregation can group closer together.

Example of flexible worship space.



Example of flexible worship space.

Chairs can be configured to accomodate smaller groups.

Chairs can be removed to for groups that need open space.

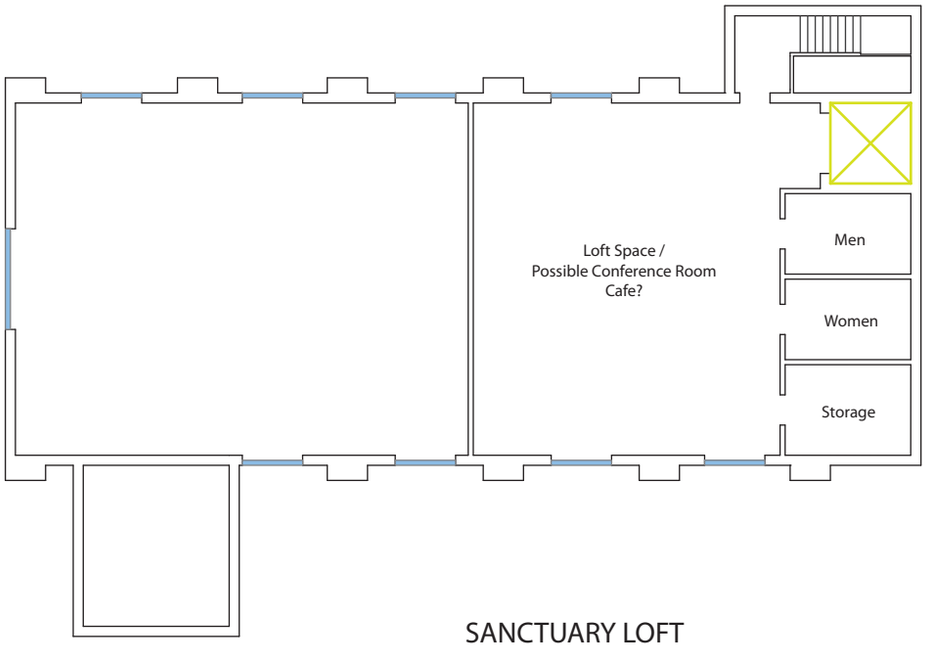
The church offices could be located at the south end of the sanctuary where the existing chancel is located. The schematic plan designates three offices as well as two bathrooms and a storage closet in this space. It was stated during the Charrette Workshop that the existing stained glass windows should be preserved. When planning for this space it is important to consider the location of the windows and incorporate them into the design.

The new offices will be connected to the worship space by a naturally lit corridor, similar to the one on the lower level. The corridor also connects the main entrance to the elevator and will effectively make it an accessible entrance to the rest of the building. This includes the potential for a new loft space above the proposed offices.

Sanctuary Loft

The new church offices present a unique opportunity for the creation of a loft above them. The height of the sanctuary's roof offers a generous amount of space for a second floor. A loft will keep the sanctuary open and can be used for a number of purposes. It might be:

- Additional meeting space for groups;
- A new organ loft;
- A conference room;
- A café.



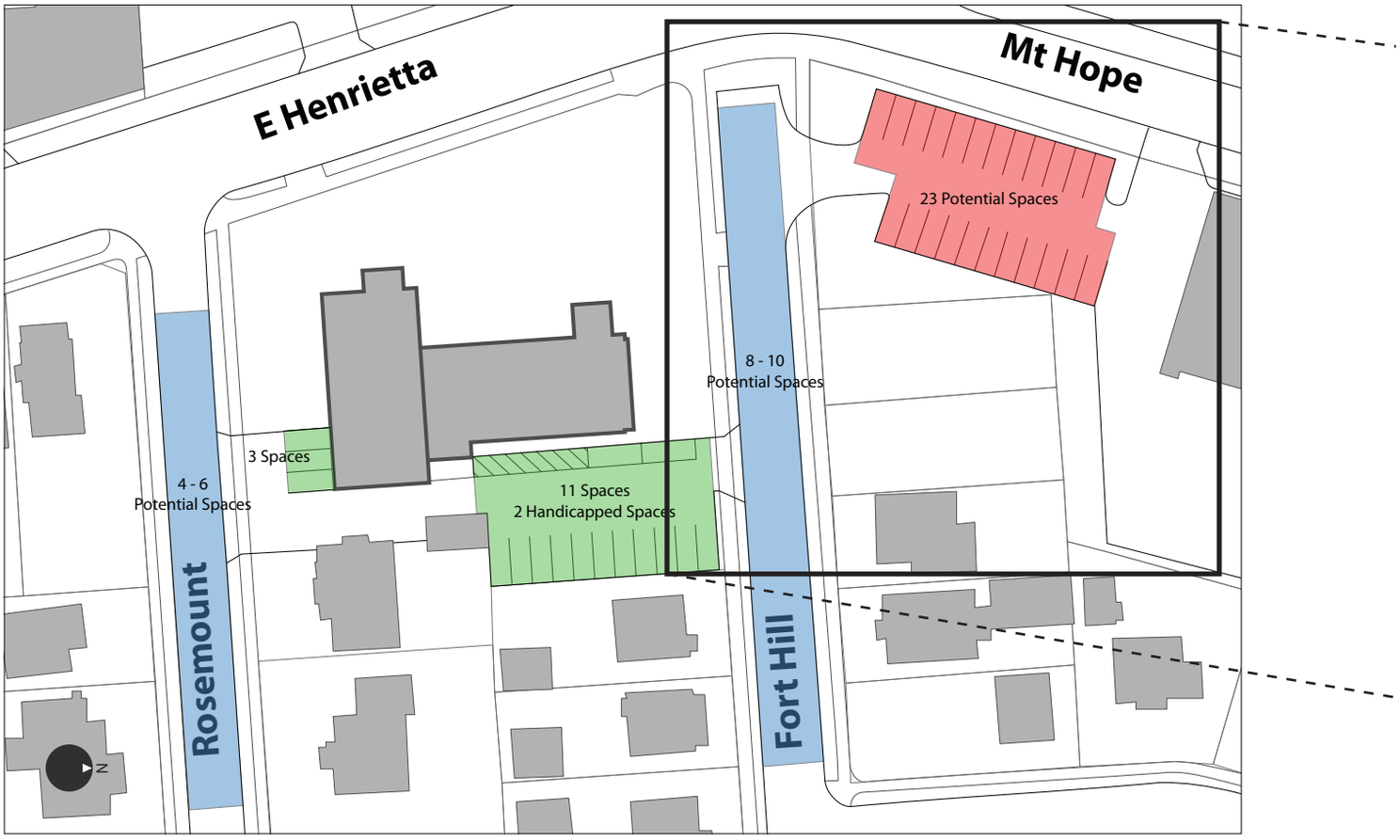
SANCTUARY LOFT

Parking & Accessibility

Existing Situation

While the existing parking options are suitable for the current needs of the church and its programs, there are some shortfalls. Currently these needs are satisfied by the rear parking lot, a few parking spots on the south side of the building, on-street parking, and the nearby McDonald's overflow lot. With the development of Mt. Hope Avenue, much of this parking is in jeopardy of being eliminated. This development also effects the traffic circulation and access to and from the church. When considering the future of the church and potential development scenarios it is crucial to consider accessibility and how the parking needs will be satisfied.

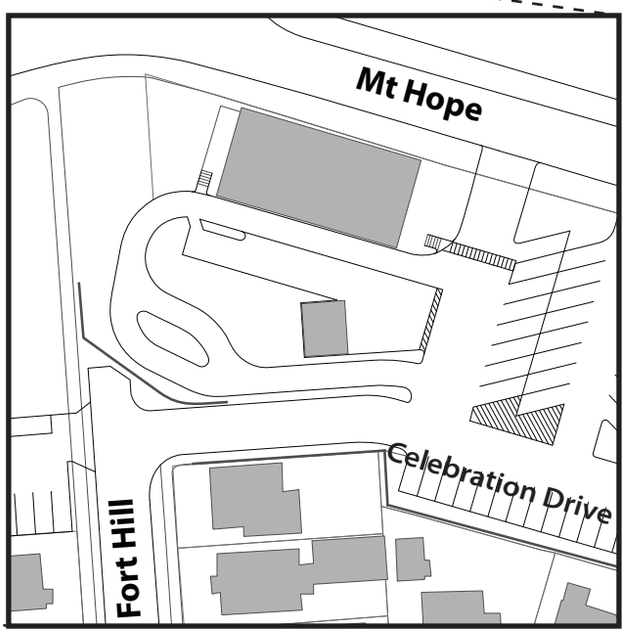
Since the closing off of Fort Hill Terrace, the church has experienced circulation issues. Additionally, access from Rosemount Street was limited by the church because people were using the parking lot as a cut through, which posed safety risks for EBNS. While the church is visible from Mt. Hope Avenue and E. Henrietta Road the only means of access to church parking is from South Avenue. Its largest source of parking is the McDonalds overflow lot. This lot will soon be removed to accommodate a new restaurant and drive-through. A new access road, Celebration Drive, will run behind the businesses and connect Fort Hill



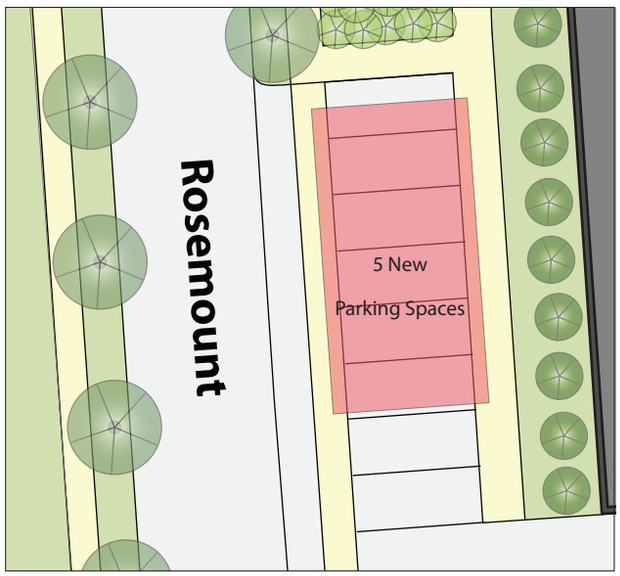
Terrace to Mt. Hope Avenue. Celebration Drive will be lined with public parking that could be utilized by the congregation and groups meeting at the church. This parking however will be farther away than the existing public lot and will not be not easily accessed by the handicapped.

Potential Solutions

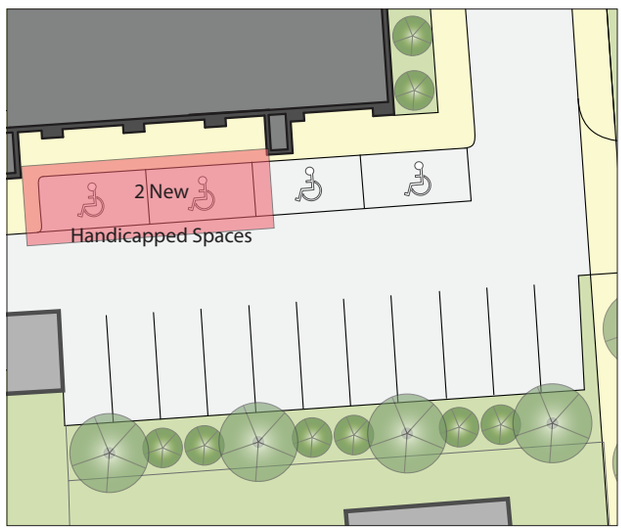
Any potential parking solution will depend on the future needs for the church and its programs. The most basic solutions include promoting on-street parking on Fort Hill Terrace, Rosemount Street, and E. Henrietta Road if possible. An eventual reconfiguration of the on-site parking will be needed. Potential locations for additional parking include the south end of the property along Rosemount Street and reconfiguring the existing rear parking lot. This reconfiguration will only add a modest five regular parking spaces and two handicapped spaces overall.



On-site Parking Reconfiguration



On-site Parking Reconfiguration

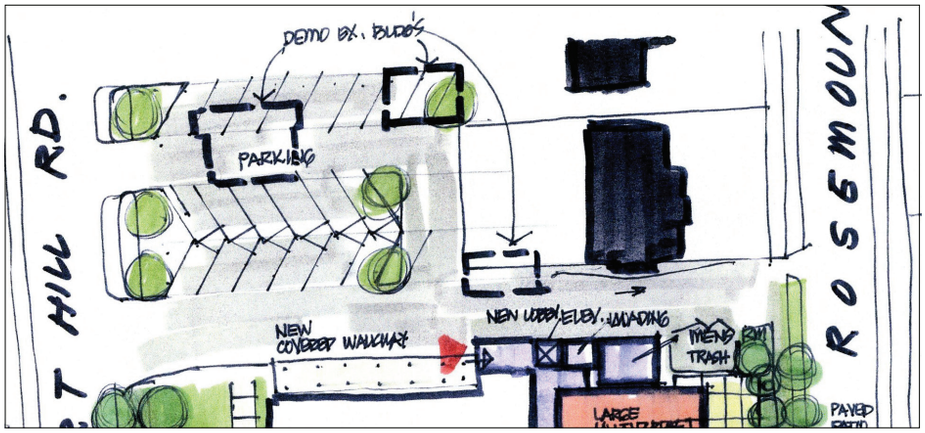


Parking & Accessibility

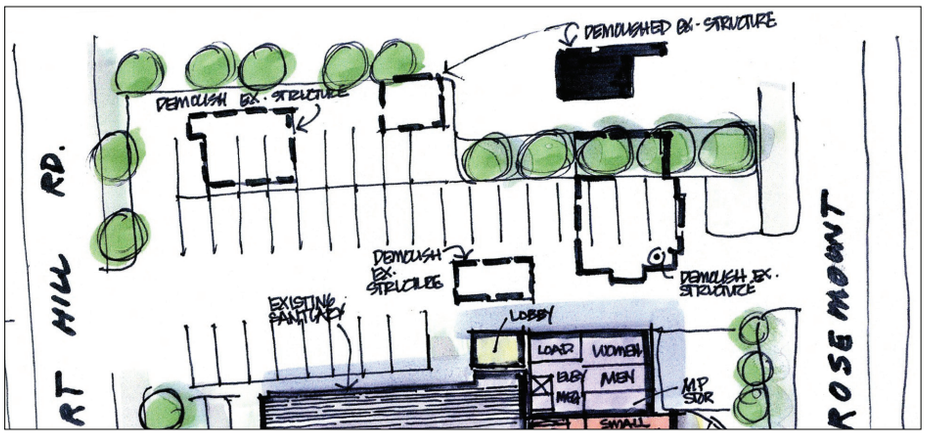
Reopening the rear driveway to through traffic will increase circulation through the property. It is not wide enough to accommodate traffic in both directions however, allowing one-way traffic specifically from Fort Hill Terrace to Rosemount Street will make it easier for vehicles exiting the site. More importantly this drive would become a handicapped accessible drop off location which will have access to the centrally located elevator through the rear building entrance. Making the drive one-way only will restrict the unwanted traffic trying to cut through from E. Henrietta Road.

A more extreme approach to increasing parking capacity and improving circulation involves purchasing houses adjacent to the church's property. The schematic drawings below show the potential gain if one or two houses were purchased. The rear drive can be widened allowing for traffic in both direction and a significant increase in on-site parking spaces. This scenario would depend on the future use of the church and the quantity of its programs. A development of this kind would most likely accompany the construction of a new addition that houses several new programs with overlapping time slots.

Removing One House

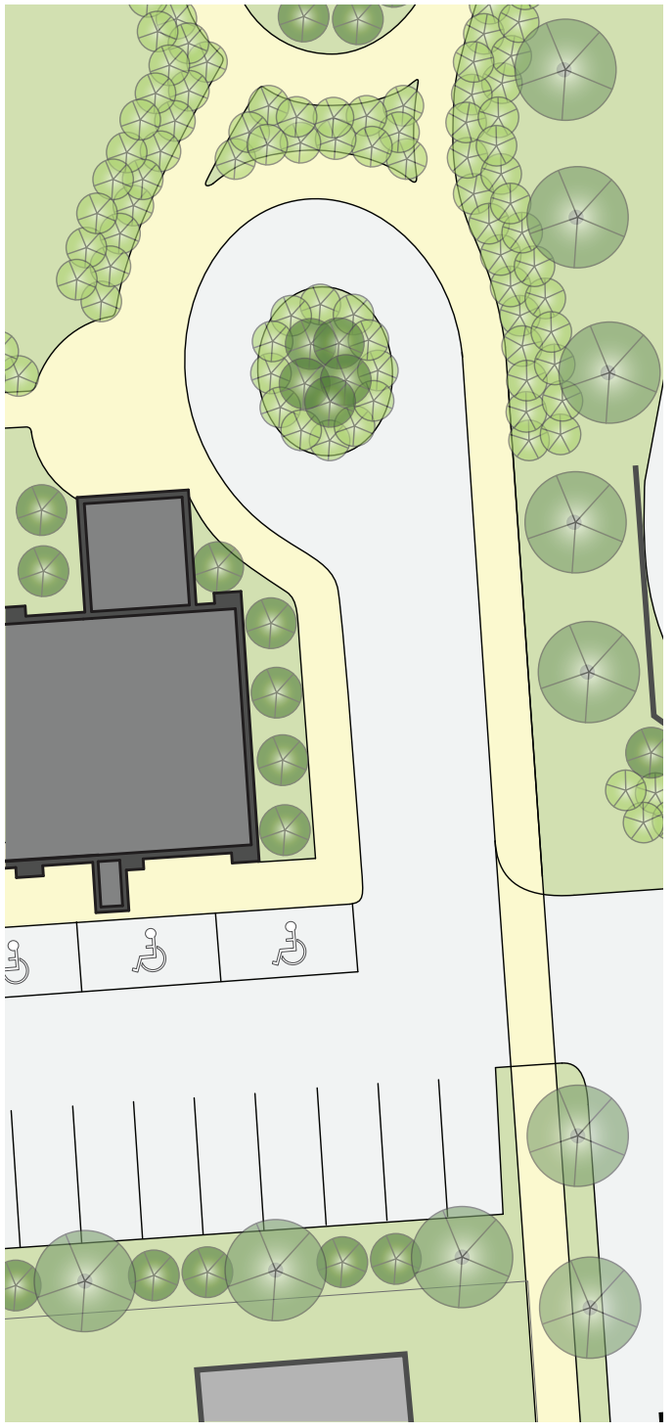


Removing Two Houses



It was suggested during the Charrette Workshop that there could be a drive-thru drop off loop to increase accessibility for the handicapped. This drop off was proposed in the front of the building and would also help to accommodate large church events like weddings and funerals. Additionally, it would create a point of access from E. Henrietta Road and Mt. Hope Avenue. The slope of the property however, presents challenges to locating it here and makes it impractical. Another issue is one of aesthetics. SPC has a beautiful front lawn and a foundation of landscaping that would have to be sacrificed for pavement in front of the building. Suggestions were made for a gated entrance and landscaping to soften the appearance.

Other potential locations for a drive-thru or drop off loop include the back of the church through the parking lot or on the north end of the church along Fort Hill Terrace. Locating it in the back would require the acquisition of at least one adjacent house to have adequate room for two way traffic. If this were the case, the rear entrance should be enhanced to promote it as a secondary entrance rather than the back door. The north end of the church is a less complex solution requiring only the removal of a few trees. The drop off loop would be accessed from Forth Hill Terrace and run along the north end of the church and loop around next to the tower and main entrance. This loop could be hidden with new and existing landscaping, and the center could feature a sculpture.



Site Improvements

Thoughtfully enhancing the landscaping on the church campus can have a number of benefits. The SPC grounds have already been extensively landscaped. There are issues however, particularly along the sidewalk of E. Henrietta Road where it has become a barrier. Additional concerns with the grounds include a lack of visibility from the Mt. Hope Avenue intersection, the slope of the property, pedestrian access and a lack of public space. The plan on the next page addresses these issues by:

- Creating a focal point;
- Lighting the church tower;
- Creating public space;
- Increasing pedestrian access;
- Installing thoughtful plantings.

Creating a Focal Point

The Church sits below street level due to the slope of the property and it often goes unnoticed by traffic passing by at high speeds. It is important when considering landscape improvements to create a focal point directed towards the intersection to attract people's attention. An initial solution would be to enhance the tower. The tower itself is a beacon for the church, and removing cell phone antennae from the top of the tower will improve its appearance. It is the church's most visible feature during the day, but gets lost in the darkness at night. Lighting the tower will not only beautify the church, but the entire intersection.

Church Tower Lighted at Night

Trees

- Eastern White Pine
- Hackberry
- Sweetgum
- Eastern Redbud
- Flowering Dogwood

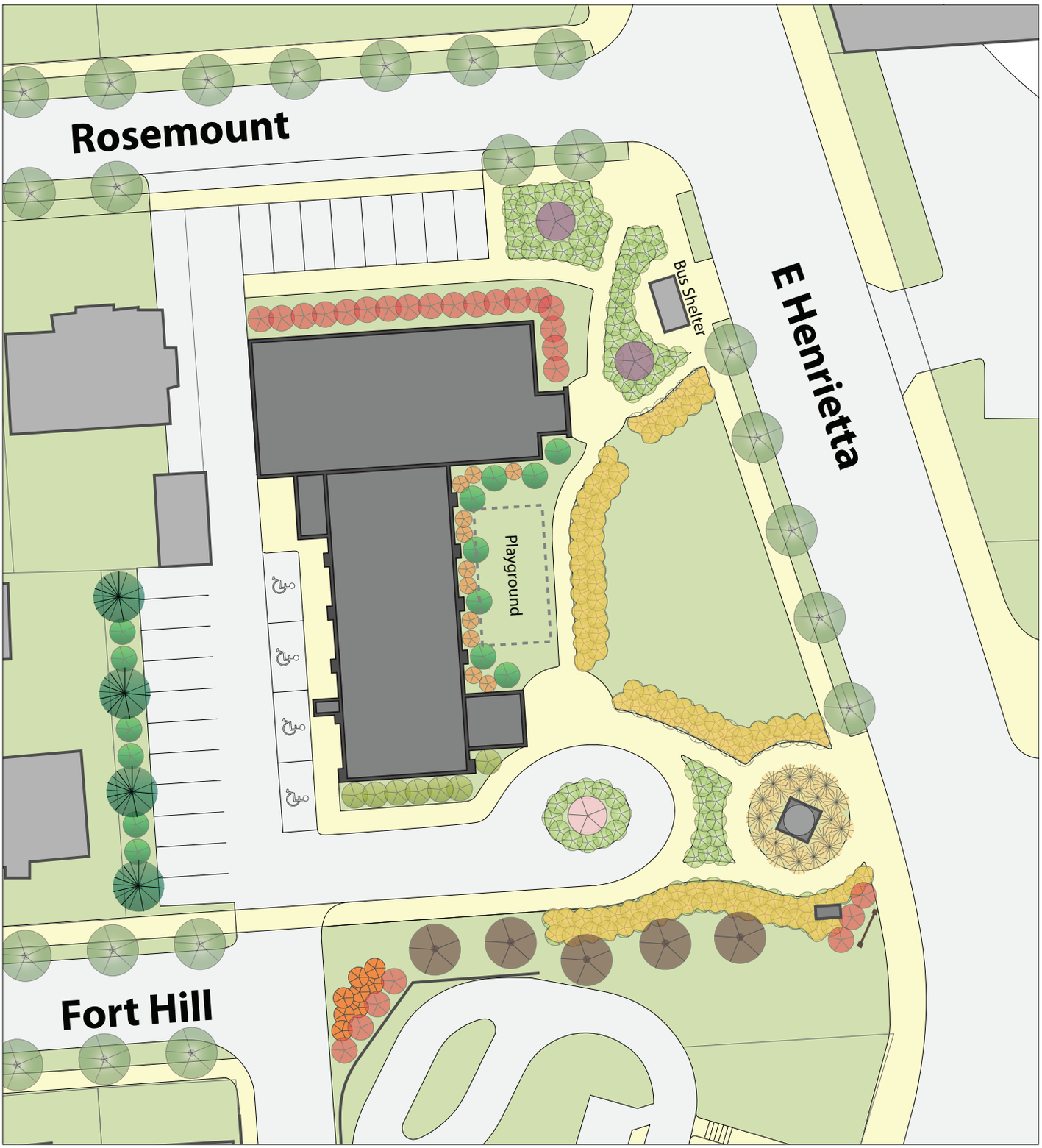
Shrubs

- Oakleaf Hydrangea
- Winterberry
- Vernal Witch Hazel
- Shrubby Cinquefoil

Misc.

- Ornamental Grass
- Wildflowers
- Groundcover

**Descriptions of plants included in Landscape Index


Rosemount
E Henrietta
Bus Shelter
Playground
Fort Hill

Site Improvements

Another way to create a focal point is to relocate the church's sign closer to the intersection and make it more visible. The future plan shows that when the dead end of Fort Hill Terrace is developed, half of the street will be given to SPC. This allows for the sign to be moved closer to the intersection than it is currently able to. An additional benefit is that the sign location will hide the new traffic signal box. The new sign should be:

- Attractive;
- Colorful;
- Easy to Read;
- Landscaped;
- Visible and well lit at night.

Fort Hill Terrace Dead End - Before

Fort Hill Terrace Dead End - After

Creating Public Space

SPC wants their campus to reflect the harmonious nature of the church presence that welcomes and spiritually nurtures both members and non-members. This can be achieved by creating a designated place that can be shared with the community and contributes to a positive quality of life for all to enjoy. During the Charrette Workshop, a seating area or sculpture garden for reflection was suggested for the front lawn of the Church. The plan illustrates this suggestion with a sculpture located close to the Mt. Hope Avenue intersection and the sidewalk that borders the grounds on three sides. It is part of a larger system of pedestrian paths that connects the public realm to the main entrance of the church. The sculpture or sculptures installed here can be of both a spiritual and secular nature to reflect the church's values while encouraging the non-spiritual to gather as well.

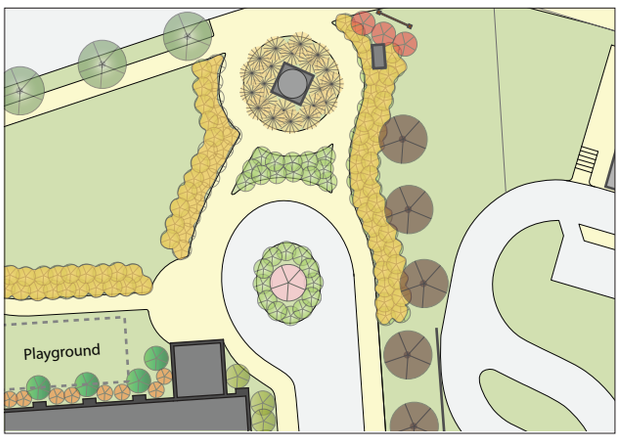
Metallic Sculpture - Hands Praying for Peace

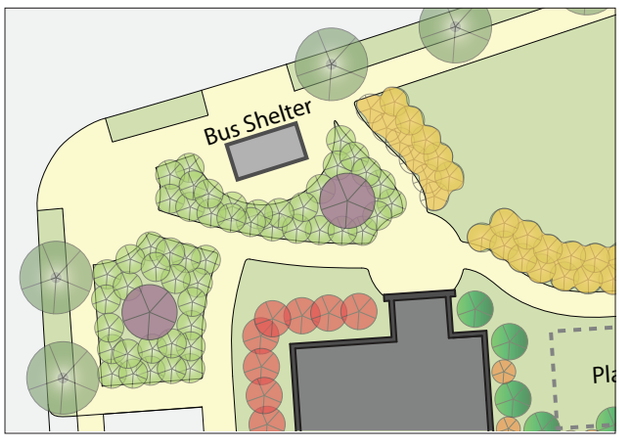
Stone Angel Sculpture

Roots Sculpture Outside Trinity Church, NYC

Increasing Pedestrian Access

SPC envisions itself as an "entryway/portal." To achieve the same feeling on the grounds, a reconfiguration of the path system on the grounds is needed to create a flow between the church's exterior environment and the internal one. The paths should be able to seamlessly connect all areas of the grounds, particularly the front entrance to the rear parking lot. The plan illustrates suggested pedestrian paths that connect the public realm surrounding the church to the main entrances into the building. These paths begin at the corners of the property and are enhanced with welcoming landscaping or an attention drawing sculpture. SPC's goal of promoting alternative means of transportation can be seen with a secondary path effectively connecting the bus stop to the church grounds.





Programs & Partnerships

A major factor in church decisions going forward will be consideration for the programs that will use the facilities. SPC has identified these programs as "church use partners" (CUP's). The number of CUP's, the types of programs, and their spatial and parking requirements will help determine how to proceed regarding any future developments or demolitions. The Charrette Workshop produced several options for potential CUP's. SPC understands that the CUP's will range from groups that will be able to pay market-driven rates for used of space and those that are volunteer driven and might pay reduced "good-faith" rates (i.e. twelve-step programs). It is important that they do not carry a negative sum balance in terms of its CUP's costs. They need to have "anchor partners" that guarantee a steady income to maintain its presence and continue to do the work of the Church. It is also crucial to establish a strict schedule for the use of spaces to efficiently utilize the church's resources and maximize the number of programs that it can support.

It was also noted during the Charrette Workshop that the current programs are well subscribed and should be retained. These programs include:

- Ellwanger Barry Nursery School
- Futurpointe Dance
- 12 Step Programs

Ellwanger Barry Nursery School
EBNS
•Where Families Grow Together•

Fellowship Hall is a major asset for SPC. It is a large open space and can accommodate a wide range of programs and activities. The attached commercial sized kitchen further increases the potential for this space. Some suggested uses for Fellowship Hall include:

- Multi-Purpose Performance Space (Theater, Dance, Music, etc.)
- An Art Center / Gallery Space
- Renting Fellowship Hall and the Kitchen for Events
- Commercial Use of the Kitchen (i.e. Catering)
- Cooking Lessons
- General Community Room

It was also widely suggested that SPC become a place of learning and develop educational programs for all ages. In addition to being a spiritual center, SPC can be a learning center and provide resources such as a lending library, becoming a Wi-Fi hub, and possibly have computers for public use. Potential educational programs include:

- Pre –K
- Kindergarten
- Adult/Continuing Education Classes
- Short Term Classes
- Art Classes
- Music Lessons
- BOCES Style Classes
- Youth Programs

Programs & Partnerships

Additional Programmatic suggestions include:

- Becoming a Wellness Center
- Promoting a Healthy Lifestyle
- Healthy Food Access (Community Gardens)
- Business Incubator
- Support Groups
- Short Term Housing that Supports People in Need

Establishing Partnerships

Partnerships and collaboration are essential to the success of SPC functioning as a hybrid ministry that caters to the needs of its community. SPC is very community driven and it would be wise to partner with successful neighborhood groups. Much of the surrounding community includes University of Rochester students and faculty as well as Strong Memorial Hospital employees. Neighborhood groups such as the South Wedge or the Neighborhood of the Arts could help guide the church in organizing its members and enhancing local community engagement.

As a potential learning center it is important to partner with local educational institutions. These institutions could utilize the church's extra classroom and meeting space for continuing education classes and youth outreach programs. These institutions might include:

- University of Rochester
- Eastman School of Music
- Hochstein School of Music
- Rochester Institute of Technology

Long Term Scenarios

Looking towards the future there are three potential scenarios that may unfold. These scenarios will depend on the steps that SPC takes and the decisions that they make regarding many of these issues that have been discussed. Additionally, the amount of spatial, parking and accessibility requirements will depend on the programmatic uses and partnerships that they plan to pursue. The Session has decided that SPC will remain at its current location, and at the very least, it will retain the original sanctuary building. Knowing this narrows any potential onsite development down to three scenarios. They are to:

- Keep All Existing Buildings
- Remove the Addition – No New Development
- Remove the Addition – New Development Possible

Keep All Existing Buildings

The first scenario proposes to keep all of the existing buildings. This includes not only the original sanctuary building, but the 1950's addition as well. As illustrated in the previous sections of this Vision Plan, the interior and exterior spaces can be reconfigured to efficiently accommodate all the existing programs and activities as well as new CUP's in the future. While the sanctuary will house the church programs and the Ellwanger Barry Nursery School, the addition is now free to be shared by a number of new programs. This space already has great assets that include Fellowship Hall and the commercial sized kitchen, which can accommodate large gatherings and performances. The lower level of the addition can be reconfigured to create classrooms and meeting spaces. In addition to reconfiguring its space, the 1950's addition needs to be updated. Introducing bright and vibrant colors, new materials and creative ways of opening up the spaces will give new life to the functional but dated building. As with any of these scenarios, the issue of parking and accessibility will depend on the demand. A strict and creative scheduling of programs can prevent overlapping and spread the parking needs out to avoid overcrowding.

Examples of Potential Updates

Long Term Scenarios

Remove Addition - No New Development

The second scenario proposes that the 1950's addition be removed. A reconfiguration of the sanctuary building would be able to accommodate all of the existing programs that SPC desires to retain and therefore a new addition may not be required. The reconfigured spaces of the sanctuary and its lower level should be designed to be flexible and able to accommodate the potential for alternative uses when not being used for their primary purposes. Minimizing and efficiently using the remaining space would also greatly reduce the financial demands on the church.

If the addition were to be removed, there is an opportunity for a new entrance to the church. The tower would remain as the focal point/beacon toward the Mt. Hope Avenue Intersection, but the main entrance could now be on the south side of the building along Rosemount Street. Potential designs for this entrance may include a large visually permeable glass structure that modernize the image of the church but also complements the historic sanctuary.

Having the main entrance on this end of the building will increase accessibility to and from the church due to Rosemount Street being a thru-street between South Avenue and E. Henrietta Road. The proposed entrance would have a smaller footprint than the existing addition. The extra space could be utilized for a drive-thru which includes an additional six parking spaces. These spaces could be designated for handicap use and offer a shorter trip from the car into the church. Parking along Rosemount Street would also become more accessible and frequently used.

Other features of this plan include the rear parking lot, now with twenty parking spaces. The original and proposed main entrances to the building can be accessed from this lot as well as both rear entrances. In this plan the playground for the Ellwanger Barry Nursery School is located on the north end of the church. This location is more suitable for the playground because the slope of the property is less intense here and it can be easily accessed from the rear EBNS entrance.

Trees

- Eastern White Pine
- Hackberry
- Sweetgum
- Eastern Redbud
- Flowering Dogwood

Shrubs

- Oakleaf Hydrangea
- Winterberry
- Vernal Witch Hazel
- Shrubby Cinquefoil

Misc.

- Ornamental Grass
- Wildflowers
- Groundcover

**Descriptions of plants included in Landscape Index

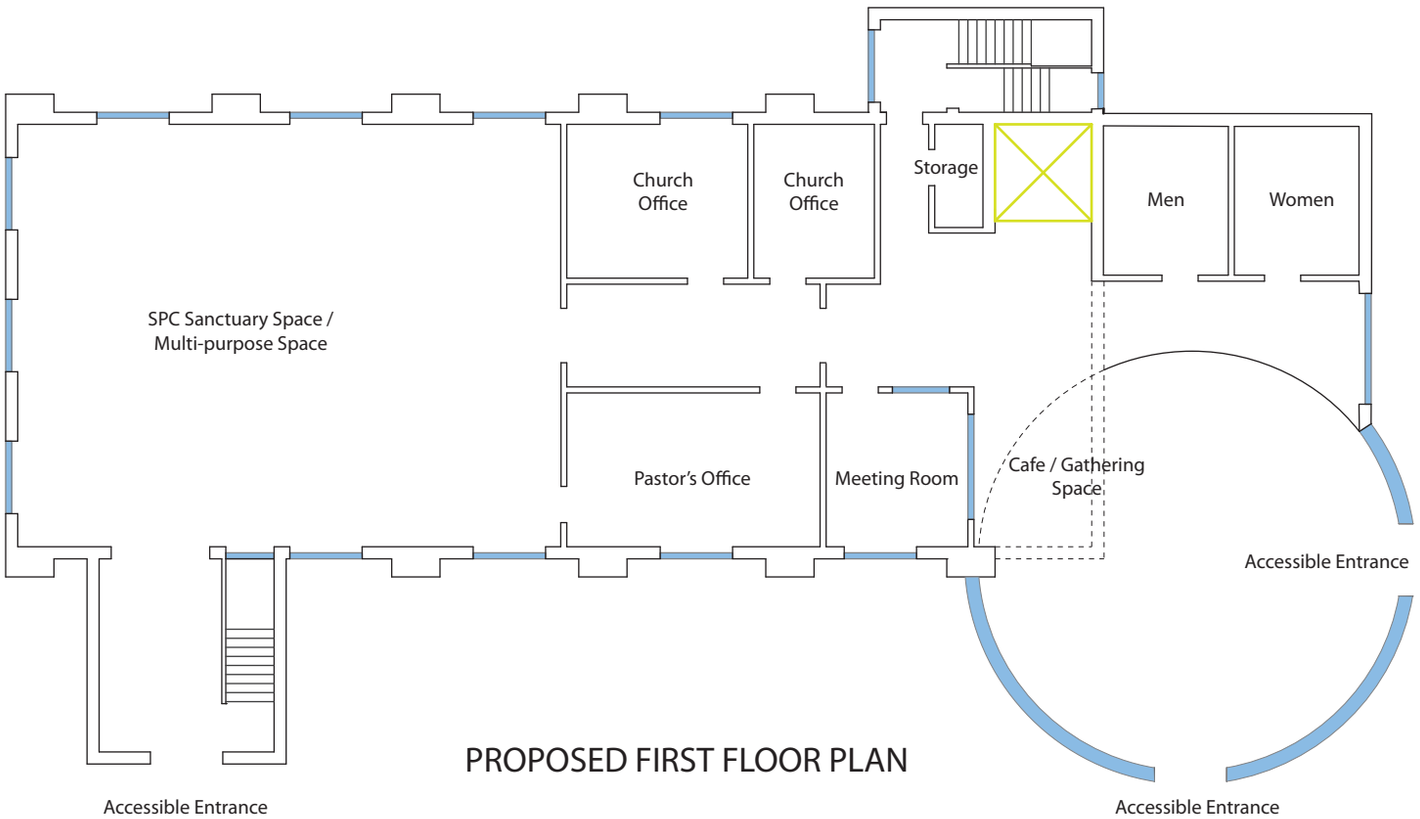
Rosemount
Bus Shelter
E Henrietta
Playground
Fort Hill

Long Term Scenarios

A new entrance on the south end of the existing sanctuary building will have interior and exterior benefits. In addition to the extra space that could be used for a drive -thru loop, a modern entry provides a new face for the church that is welcoming to both the spiritual and secular communities. It was proposed during the Charrette Workshop that the new entrance should be visually permeable. The designs on the following page illustrate potential scenarios for a modern glass entry into the church. This will allow pedestrians and vehicular traffic passing the church to see activity within as well as those inside of the church being able to see out into the community they serve.

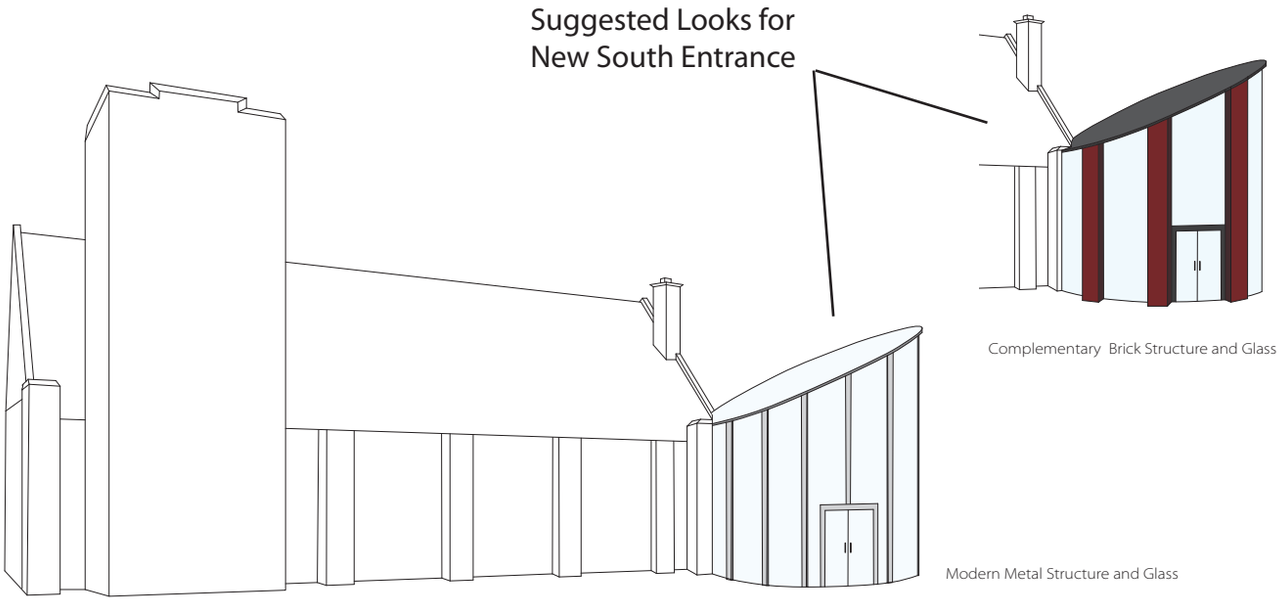
The structure of this entry might be very modern, using primarily metal and glass that contrasts the historic Sanctuary building. Below is an example of a modern glass entrance to an old church. Another approach could involve mimicking the brick pillars of the existing Sanctuary building in the new entry's design that complements the old with the new.

A new entrance could be added to the south end of the building with little interference to the potential short-term reconfiguration of the Sanctuary. The proposed offices and elevator location would not be affected. The new entrance however would create additional space that could be utilized as a gathering space after services and/or a cafe that can be used by everyone. A cafe or other potential daily services would provide a steady income for SPC and draw community members into the church throughout the week. The space would be open and bright, reflecting the church's welcoming and open nature.



PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Suggested Looks for New South Entrance



Complementary Brick Structure and Glass

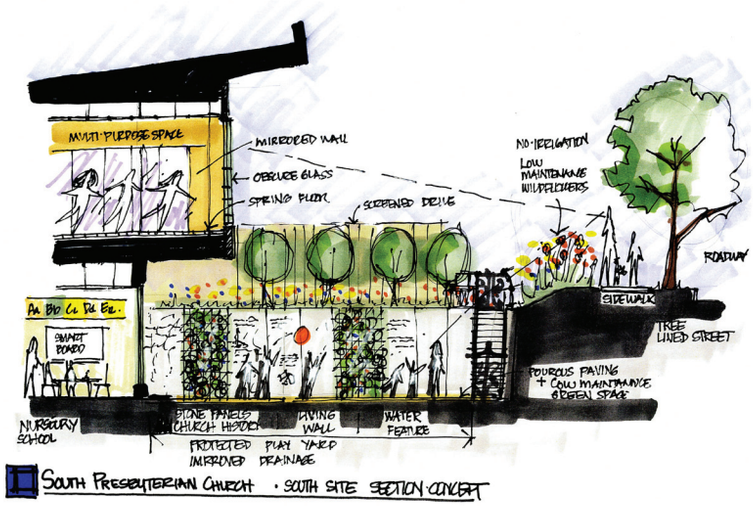
Modern Metal Structure and Glass

Long Term Scenarios

Remove the Addition – New Development Possible

The third potential scenario for the future development of the church could be to remove the existing 1950's addition and construct a new one. This option is a major undertaking and will require thought and planning. The first thing to consider is how a new addition will affect the remaining sanctuary building. Could it still function during construction and what programs, if any, will be relocated to the new addition? The next questions to ask is what kind of space it should be? Based on the programmatic suggestions during the Charrette Workshop, the new addition could be a learning facility, a community and health center, business incubator, or a combination of many things. Selecting uses that reflect SPC's values and determining their requirements for parking, accessibility and scheduling will weigh in on the final decision. Building a new addition may necessitate acquiring adjacent lots to provide sufficient parking, as discussed in earlier sections of this Vision Plan. Another factor will be how to separate the spiritual sections of the building from the secular portions of the building, if at all. This will impact the layout and final designs of the new addition. And third, the shape and design of the building will be determined by the limitations of the site. The slope of the property presents challenges as well as opportunities for new development. Below is a section a schematic design that addresses the slope.

Existing Building

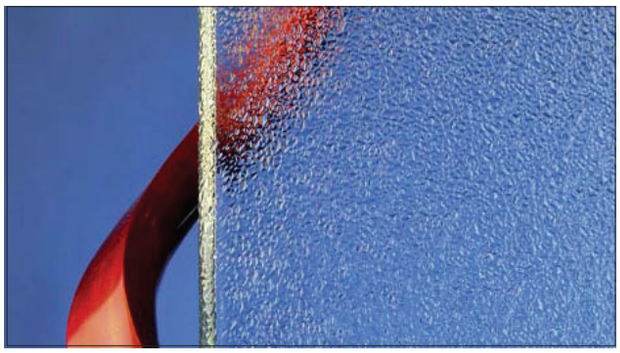


Rosemount Street

The new addition should:

- Stand out from the existing Sanctuary building;
- Be welcoming to the community;
- Be visually permeable (not at the cost of privacy);
- Consider creative types materials;
- Use sustainable practices;
- Be thoughtfully designed using good design principles.

Example of Privacy Glass



Sustainable Practices

SPC feels that it is their duty as Stewards of Creation to model responsible partnerships with the natural world. In the future they will seek to promote an environmental message and maintain a low carbon footprint through the creative and effective use of green technology. The specific methods in which this can be achieved will ultimately depend on future decisions regarding the building and site. Some sustainable approaches however, can be attempted now. Initial steps toward maintaining a low carbon foot print include:

- Creative and sustainable landscape design;
- Use of alternate energy and energy-efficient mechanical systems;
- Promoting alternative transportation.

Landscaping

A thoughtful landscape plan will not only enhance the aesthetic quality of the grounds, but also improve its sustainability. Using permeable materials for hardscaped surfaces, like the pathways on the site, will reduce the water runoff and filter rainwater back into the soil. This will improve costly drainage issues that have damaged the existing buildings and reduce the utility costs for watering and maintaining the landscaping. Permeable pavements can be combined with rain gardens and bio-swales around parking lots. These gardens are a low maintenance approach to absorbing and filtering water runoff while screening parking lots.

Example of a Parking Lot Rain Garden

Midtown Church Communtiy Garden , GA

Another sustainable landscaping approach with significant potential is installing a community garden. A community garden serves may purposes. It can be used as a teaching tool for the children of EBNS to learn about healthy foods. It can also bring the community together as they work in the garden. Similar to indoor spaces, individual plots could be rented for the season and to ease the financial cost of upkeep. Additionally the vegetables produced in the gardens can be sold at a church sponsored farmers market or used to supply potential culinary classes held in the Fellowship Hall kitchen.

Sustainable Practices

Alternative Energy

Alternative sources of energy can help reduce the burden of the church's utility costs by harnessing natural elements. Possible sustainable approaches to energy include solar, wind and geothermal power. While geothermal infrastructure is costly and requires a large amount of space, solar and wind power infrastructure can be installed directly on the existing buildings or any future developments. Solar panels and attractive wind turbines can be mounted on the flat roof surface of the addition and remain mostly out of sight. Another method of reducing the cost of utilities is to update the mechanical and HVAC systems of the church with energy efficient systems. These updates should be considered when undergoing any interior reconfigurations or future developments.

Alternative Transportation

Promoting alternative methods of transportation will not only improve the sustainability of SPC and its property, but the neighborhood and community surrounding it. Alternative transportation refers to all means of transportation that do not include automobiles. By promoting alternative transportation, SPC can reduce the demand for on-site parking, which frees up space on the grounds that can be used for gardens and gathering spaces. With the development of Mt. Hope Avenue and CollegeTown there is potential for a high volume of pedestrian activity. SPC could promote this activity by acting as a link between the neighborhood and this development. The three forms of alternative transportation that SPC should focus on are:

- Pedestrians (Walking)
- Bicycles
- Public Transportation (Buses)

Pedestrians

The best way for SPC to promote walking and pedestrian activity is by developing a welcoming and pedestrian friendly environment within and around its grounds. While streetscape amenities such as

enhanced crosswalks and street trees are out of the church's control, they can support and encourage the implementation of these initiatives. Another way for the church to promote pedestrian activity is to offer a place for pedestrians to go. The suggested site plans illustrate potential solutions to this issue by creating attractive landscaping, interesting sculptural elements, places for pedestrians together, and a generally pleasant environment to walk by/through. Should the church decide to rent space to a business (i.e. cafe, lending library, etc.) this pleasant environment will attract patrons coming on foot or by other means of non vehicular transportation.

Bicycle Infrastructure

Promoting bicycle activity is equally as important to reducing the use of automobiles and the demand for parking. One way to promote bicycle activity is to support the installation of bicycle lanes and shared roadways in the community. Another way is to install bicycle infrastructure on the SPC grounds, giving cyclists a secure place to lock up their bicycles. This will encourage them to ride to services and other activities being held at the church. Bicycle racks can be fun and creative. To the left is an example of a functional and aesthetically pleasing bicycle rack that is also unique and attractive signage.

Public Transportation

SPC possesses an advantage when promoting the use of public transportation due to the fact that there is a bus stop located in front of the church along E. Henrietta Road. This stop has a sufficient shelter, but it leaves more to be desired aesthetically. It should be unique while representing SPC and its message of sustainability. Installing solar panels to power its lights or a green roof that is an extension of the landscaped grounds of the church are potential ways to enhance this stop. Currently there is no direct access to any of the church entrances from the bus stop. As part of the landscaping and grounds improvements, pathways should link them and encourage people using the church to consider public transportation as a mean of getting there.

Plants Index

Trees

Eastern Redbud
Cercis canadensis

Moist to well-drained soil. With sun and shade both tolerable-conditions. Appealing multiple stem structure and grows to be about 25 feet high. Reddish purple buds in the early spring and large heart shaped leaves throughout the year.

Hackberry
Celtis occidentalis

Dry to wet conditions. Good for street tree usage as it has a tolerance to road salt. Can grow to 50 feet plus with bright green leaves that turn golden yellow in the fall. Tall trunks make for a nice columnar effect when positioned along an axis.

Sweetgum
Liquidambar styracifloa

Likes wet to moist soil; best location would be in a swale. Grows to be 75 feet tall or more once completely mature. Great for screeningviews. Star shaped leaf that is a rich maroon color in the fall season. Pyramidal shape as it grows.

Flowering Dogwood
Cornus Florida

Moist to well-drained soil with sun to partial shade for best growing conditions. Grows to be about 25 feet tall with small greenish-white flowers and dark green leaves. Fall foliage is shades of red, orange and purple.

Eastern White Pine
Pinus strobus

Moist, well drained soils but will tolerate different conditions. Sun to partial sun best. Pyramidal growth and can grow to be over 100 feet tall once completely mature. Long, thin and soft needles. Ideal for behind church to screen rear neighbors.

Plants Index

Shrubs

Oakleaf Hydrangea
Hydrangeaceae

Likes moist, well drained soil with partial shade to full sun. Can be as tall as 10 feet and equally as wide. White flowers that turn purplish pink later in season. Large oak leaf shaped leave**s.**

Vernal Witch-Hazel
Hamamelidaceae

Likes moist to wet soils with sunny to partial shade conditions ideal. Grows to about 10 feet high and wide with tolerance to pruning. Shades of yellow during Fall season.

Shrubby Cinquefoil
Potentilla fruiticosa

Dry to wet soils and sun to partial shade. Can be 3.5 feet high and wide. Round bright yellow flowers and compact leaves. Would be ideal around base of the Witch-Hazel alongside the buildings west side.

Winterberry
Ilex verticillata

Moist to wet soils but tolerant of many different conditions. Sun to shade conditions best. Grows to 10 feet tall and wide with dark green leaves. Bright red fruit in winter months.

Grasses

Prairie Dropseed
Sporobolus heterolepis

Likes well drained to dry soil with full sun best for growing. It is best characterized as dense, fine, about 3 feet tall with a medium green hue. Would contribute to a nice base around focal point near the intersection.

Groundcover

Bird's Foot Violet
Viola pedata

Well drained to even sandy soils with full sun to partial sun. Naturally occurs in open dry spaces which make it suitable for vegetated islands on the site. Purple flowers with small white centers. Adds color to a normally bland vegetated layer.

Plants Index

Wildflowers

Butterfly Weed
Asclepias tuberosa

Thrives in well drained to dry soil. 12 to 36 inches tall with bright orange-red flowers with bright green foliage.

False Aster
Boltonia asteroides

Wet to dry soil with sun to partial sun. Large and spreading ranging 36 to 48 inches. White flowers in the fall season.

Gold-Star
Chrysogonum virginianum

Moist to dry soil with partial sun to shade. 6 to 12 inches tall. Golden yellow flowers through early summer. Dark green leaves.

Queen of the Prairie
Filipendula rubra

Likes soils on the moist side with sun to partial shade. 72 to 96 tall. Clusters of pink flowers in mid-summer.

Sundrops
Oenothera fruticosa

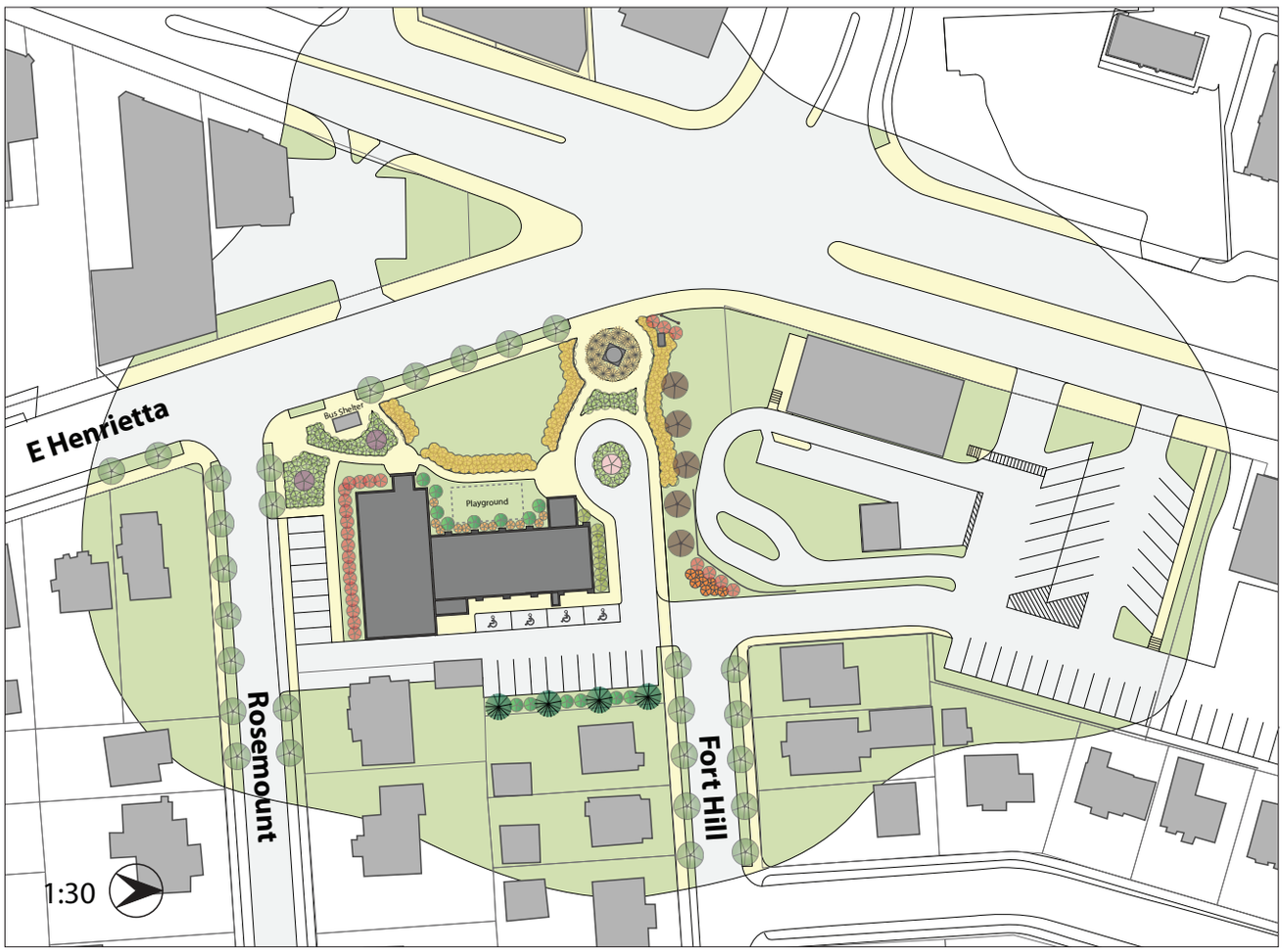
Moist to dry soils with full sun desirable. 16 to 30 inches tall with bright yellow flowers during the summer months.

Wild Bergamot
Monarda fistulosa

Moist soils with sun to partial shade. 36 to 48 inches tall. Clusters of violet flowers in summer. Sweet aromatic smell.

Plants Index

Plan A



Trees

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Shrubs

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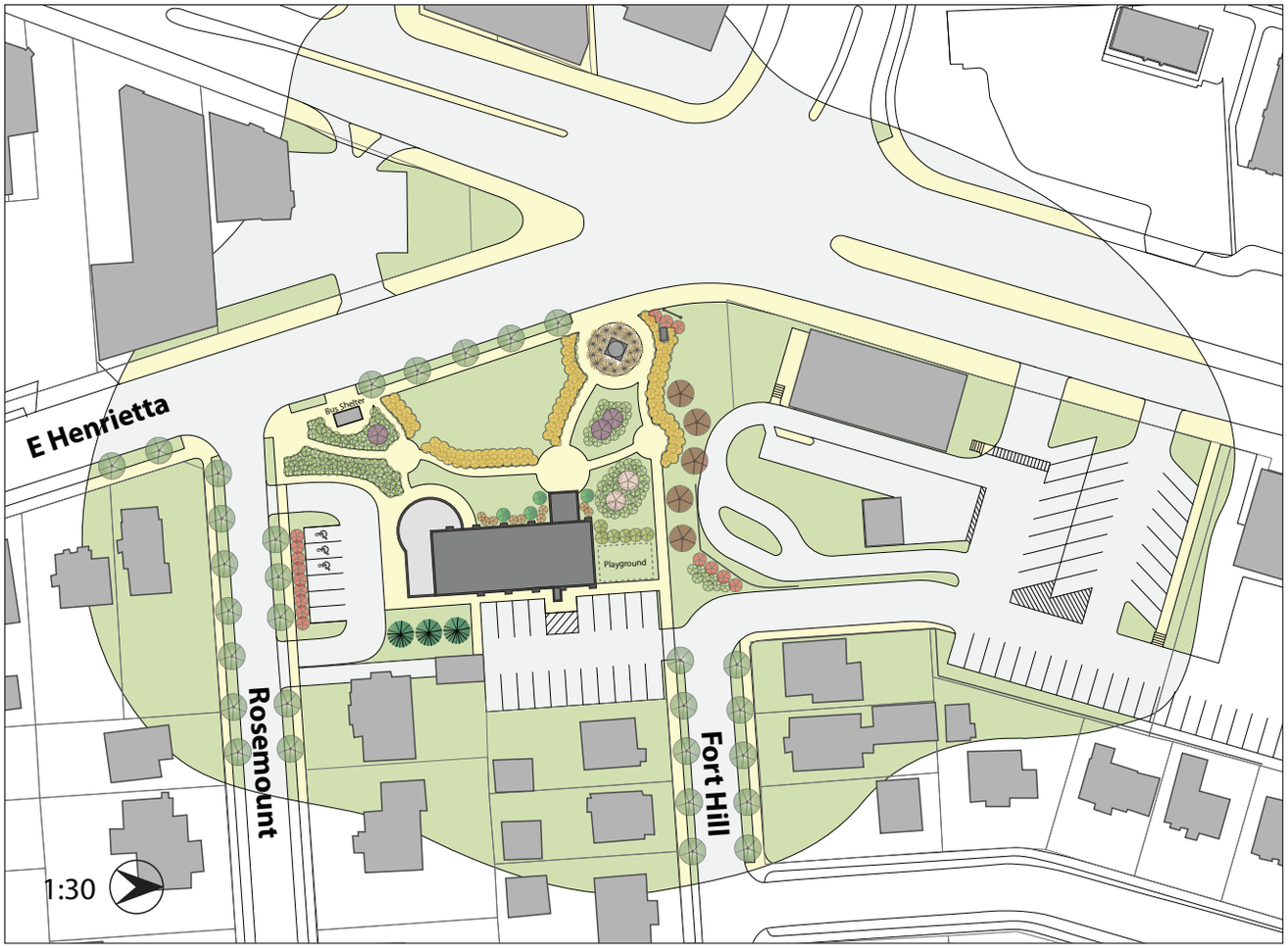
- Shrubby Cinquefoil

Misc.

- Ornamental Grass
- Wildflowers
- Groundcover

Plan B



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